

September 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

As Congress assembles a continuing resolution to extend government funding, we respectfully ask that you provide the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the resources necessary to continue assisting American farmers and ranchers. To that end, reimbursement for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) must be included in any measure to keep government operating past the current fiscal year.

For decades, CCC has been regularly replenished to fund programs integral to the farm safety net that Congress has worked tirelessly to craft. Producers count on programs like Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, Dairy Margin Coverage, Marketing Assistance Loans, conservation programs, and many others as they provide food, fuel and fiber for our nation. Without immediate CCC reimbursement, payments and programs would be significantly delayed, jeopardizing operations across the country.

More than ever, farmers and ranchers need the certainty and support provided by farm programs. Low commodity prices, unjustified retaliatory tariffs, natural disasters, and a global pandemic have placed a tremendous burden on farm country. USDA's most recent farm income projections forecast that cash receipts will be at their lowest level in more than a decade. Coupled with rising farm debt and a decrease in working capital, producers face challenges not experienced in decades.

As the industry continues to endure hardships during this unprecedented time, we urge you to include CCC reimbursement in a continuing resolution. Thank you for your consideration and continued efforts on behalf of American agriculture.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Amcot  
American Agri-Women  
American Cotton Producers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Dairy Coalition  
American Farm Bureau Federation

American Pulse Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Produce Marketing Association  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
Society of American Florists  
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association  
Southern Cotton Growers  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
United Egg Producers  
United States Peanut Federation  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
Western Peanut Growers Association

CC:

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chair House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Chairman House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture  
The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice-Chair Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable John Hoeven, Chairman Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture