

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