

April 19, 2019

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Trump, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations request immediate action to address the dire situations impacting farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and rural communities across the nation.

Farms across the country endured an incredibly difficult year in 2018 and the trend continues in 2019 with challenging market prices and destructive weather conditions. Historic hurricanes Florence and Michael, along with unprecedented wildfires, droughts, flooding and other natural disasters, devastated agricultural regions throughout the nation. Estimated agriculture losses in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina alone total nearly \$5.5 billion. Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri currently estimate losses at more than \$3 billion. Droughts have devastated the Southwest, wildfires the West and volcanic activity in Hawaii. Puerto Rico encountered its own humanitarian crisis from hurricanes Irma and Maria. For many farmers, these events have meant near complete losses. Further, while many producers benefited from the Market Facilitation Program assistance provided by the administration last fall, those producers who lost their crops due to natural disaster received no assistance.

The Southeast has been waiting more than six months for Congress and the Administration to enact disaster relief funding. In fact, numerous farmers are unable to secure production financing to plant a crop this year due to the lack of any federal agricultural disaster assistance. Without the supplemental assistance from a disaster bill, their lenders will be faced with tough loan-making decisions in 2019.

On behalf of the thousands of impacted farm families, we cannot overstate how critical and time-sensitive it is to deliver on the commitments made last year to enact disaster relief for the farmers, ranchers and rural communities impacted by these catastrophic weather events. For many of the impacted regions, planting season is here and there is no more time for delays.

In times of unprecedented natural disasters, our nation always has stepped up to help farmers and ranchers recover and restore their farms to productivity, so they can get back to producing the food, fiber and fuel for our nation. We strongly urge you to make the compromises necessary to find a path forward to approve critically-needed disaster relief, without further delay, and as soon as Congress returns from its two-week recess. The livelihoods of farm families and the economic health of rural communities are at stake.

We urge you to support the farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and rural communities that were devastated by these natural disasters.

Sincerely,

AgCarolina Farm Credit  
AgChoice Farm Credit  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
AgCredit  
AgFirst, FCB  
AgGeorgia Farm Credit  
AgPreference  
AgriBank, FCB  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
AgSouth Farm Credit  
AgTexas Farm Credit Services  
AgVantis, Inc.  
Alabama Ag Credit  
Alabama Cotton Commission  
Alabama Farm Credit  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Peanut Producers Association  
American AgCredit  
American Cotton Producers of the National Cotton Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
ArborOne Farm Credit  
Arizona Cotton Ginners Association  
Arizona Cotton Growers Association  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Blackland Cotton and Grain Association  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
Cape Fear Farm Credit  
Capital Farm Credit

Carolina Farm Credit  
Central Kentucky Ag Credit  
Central Texas Farm Credit  
CoBank  
Colonial Farm Credit  
Colorado Farm Bureau Federation  
Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit Services  
Compeer Financial  
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association  
Cotton Producers of Missouri  
Delta Council  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit East  
Farm Credit Illinois  
Farm Credit Mid-America  
Farm Credit Midsouth  
Farm Credit of Central Florida  
Farm Credit of Enid  
Farm Credit of Northwest Florida  
Farm Credit of Southern Colorado  
Farm Credit of the Virginias  
Farm Credit Services of America  
Farm Credit Services of Mandan  
Farm Credit Services of North Dakota  
Farm Credit West  
FCS Financial  
First South Farm Credit  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Peanut Producers Association  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
Fresno-Madera Farm Credit  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Georgia Blueberry Commodity Commission  
Georgia Blueberry Growers Association  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation  
Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
Georgia Pecan Commission  
Georgia Pecan Growers Association  
Georgia Watermelon Growers Association  
GreenStone Farm Credit Services  
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
Illinois Farm Bureau Federation  
Independent Community Bankers of America

Indiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Kansas Cotton Association  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association  
Louisiana Independent Cotton Warehouse Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Maryland Farm Bureau Federation  
MidAtlantic Farm Credit  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association  
New Mexico Cotton Ginners Association  
New Mexico Wool Growers  
New York Farm Bureau Federation  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Oklahoma AgCredit  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau Federation  
Palmetto Agribusiness Council  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Federation  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Premier Farm Credit  
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association  
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Texas Cotton and Grain Association  
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association  
Southern AgCredit  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Cotton Ginners Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Southwest Georgia Farm Credit  
St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation

Texas Cotton Ginners Association  
Texas Farm Bureau Federation  
Texas Farm Credit Services  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Cotton Growers Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation  
Washington Farm Bureau Federation  
Western AgCredit  
Yankee Farm Credit

cc: Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture