



December 2, 2024

Representative Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned Governors, write to express our concern for the future of rural America. Agriculture not only serves as the foundation of our economies, but it embodies our way of life. It provides the food, fiber, and fuel that we all depend on every single day to survive. However, this crucial industry has faced powerful headwinds beyond its control.

Over recent years the agriculture industry has experienced high inflation, high input costs, high interest rates, catastrophic weather events, natural disasters, regulatory uncertainty, and a growing agricultural trade deficit.¹ High inflation has significantly increased the costs of essentials like seed, fertilizer, and fuel, with some input prices rising over 30% in just the past year.² Unprecedented droughts, fire, floods, and hurricanes have devastated crops and livestock across the country.³ Elevated interest rates are making it more difficult for farmers to secure the financing they need for operations, while supply chain disruptions continue to hinder access to critical resources.⁴

¹ Betty Resnick, *Record U.S. Agricultural Trade Deficit Forecasted to Keep Growing*. Farm Credit East (July 2024).

² *USDA Says High Farm Production Costs Not Easing in 2024*. United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry (July 13, 2023).

³ *2024 Disaster Designation Information*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

⁴ FCSAmerica Staff, *Farm Financial Decisions in a Higher Interest Rate Environment*. Farm Credit Services of America (April 10, 2024).

An outdated Farm Bill – last reauthorized in 2018 – has left America’s farmers and ranchers operating under a framework that is no longer viable.⁵ Since the expiration of the latest Farm Bill, conditions have dramatically changed; another year-long extension will leave farmers working under an outdated plan as they continue to face evolving challenges in today’s agricultural landscape.⁶

American farmers and ranchers are the most productive, effective, and efficient producers, with each farm, on average, feeding 150 people globally.⁷ In the vast majority of states throughout the country, agriculture serves as the largest industry.⁸ Farmers and ranchers serve as the best stewards of our land, preserving our natural resources for generations to come, ensuring rural communities continue to thrive.

Farmers are projected to lose up to \$35 billion in lost profit this year alone.⁹ And in many communities, some farmers and ranchers will not be able to continue their operations beyond this year.¹⁰ Any loss of agricultural operations directly impacts the provision of basic necessities that we all depend on every single day.

Domestic agricultural production is a matter of national security. If a country can’t feed itself, fuel itself, or fight for itself, then it cannot survive. It is imperative that the United States not become dependent on other countries for our food supply, while we have the best farmers and ranchers in the world right in our backyards.

Our nation’s agriculture industry is in trouble and if meaningful support is not provided soon, the well-being of the nation is at risk. Reauthorization of a Farm Bill and immediate assistance in the interim will allow farmers and ranchers to do what they do best – provide for America and feed the world.

We collectively request that Congress fulfill its obligation to protect and revitalize the agriculture industry before it’s too late. Any delay would directly impact every community in America.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have questions or would like to learn more about what our States are doing to protect our farmers, ranchers, and the agriculture sector, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

⁵ *Expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill and Extension for 2024*. Congressional Research Service (September 13, 2024).

⁶ *Five Things We’ll Miss Without A New Farm Bill*. Utah Farm Bureau Federation (August 10, 2024).


⁷ *Agriculture Facts*. Farm Bureau Arkansas.

⁸ *Ag and Food Sectors and the Economy*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (April 19, 2024).

⁹ *Farm Sector Income & Finances: Highlights from the Farm Income Forecast*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (September 5, 2024).

¹⁰ H. Scott Stiles, *2024 Economic Situation and Outlook for Arkansas Row Crops*. UofA Division of Agriculture, Research & Extension (October 14, 2024).

Sincerely,



Governor Kay Ivey
State of Alabama



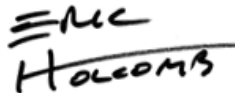
Governor Sarah Sanders
State of Arkansas



Governor Brian Kemp
State of Georgia



Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho



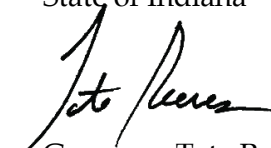
Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana



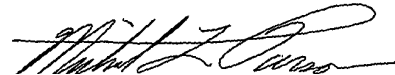
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State of Iowa



Governor Jeff Landry
State of Louisiana



Governor Tate Reeves
State of Mississippi



Governor Mike Parson
State of Missouri



Governor Greg Gianforte
State of Montana



Governor Joe Lombardo
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Governor Jim Justice
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