

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2025

Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Farmers and working families are struggling to make ends meet right now. The trade war is driving up costs for Americans in every corner of the country, pushing too many to the brink. Families are facing historically high grocery prices and exponentially more expensive healthcare. Farmers are grappling with rising input costs and production expenses for fertilizer, seeds, fuel, and equipment, low crop prices and declining profit margins, labor shortages, and high land costs and limited land access. The combination of these factors threatens farmers' survival and viability, particularly small farms, medium farms, family farms, and specialty crop farms across the United States. These farmers and working families need relief now.

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast shows farm production expenses increasing by \$12 billion compared to last year, up to \$467.40 billion.¹ Current input price hikes are expected for seed, chemicals, custom operations, and repairs and maintenance.² Many fertilizers have seen sharp price increases; for example, gulf diammonium phosphate prices rose from about \$583 per ton in January to nearly \$800 in August, a 36 percent increase in less than eight months. Small and family farmers feel the burden of high input costs and production expenses, exacerbated by limited access to credit and less bargaining power to negotiate better prices and production contracts.³

No farmer should lose land, and no farm should be lost as a result of recent economic volatility. Meanwhile, the United States lost more than 140,000 farms between 2017 and 2022, and more than 2,000 acres of farmland are paved over or otherwise developed every single day. During this same period, Texas lost nearly 18,000 farms, Oklahoma lost 8,153 farms, and Missouri lost 7,433 farms. Specialty crop states like Maine lost 564 farms and Connecticut, 460 farms. An alarming trend across specialty crop states in New England – 80 percent of farmland has been lost over the last 60 years.

This is a crisis, and it is worsening every day. If your Administration moves forward with plans to provide economic relief to large farmers suffering due to high input costs and lost export markets, you must not forget about small and medium-sized farms, family farms, and specialty

¹ <https://investigatemitwest.org/2025/10/01/farmers-squeezed-as-doj-usda-examine-rising-expenses/>

² <https://www.terrainag.com/insights/crop-margins-likely-to-remain-tight-in-2025/>

³ <https://www.georgetownpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AGrowingProblem-April2022.pdf>;
<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/15/6752>

crop farmers. These farmers are vital to local economies and are the backbone of our nation's food supply. They provide fresh fruit and vegetables to local stores, feed our families, and power rural communities by creating jobs and supporting local businesses. The loss of even more small farms will devastate communities, restrict the food supply, and have long-term economic and food security ramifications for the United States and for the world.

Specialty crop farmers and family farms have been left behind by our farm safety net for far too long. When President Abraham Lincoln created the USDA in 1862, he called it "The People's Department." People across the country need your help from family farmers to working families. These farms are the roots of American agriculture and are essential to our country's future.

Sincerely,



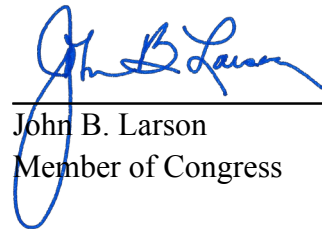
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



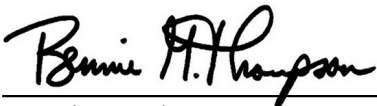
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



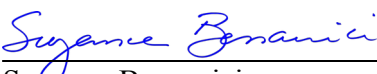
John B. Larson
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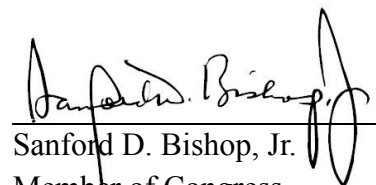
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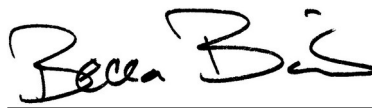
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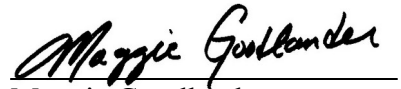
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Chris Pappas
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Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



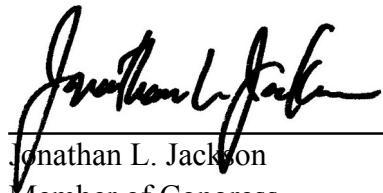
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



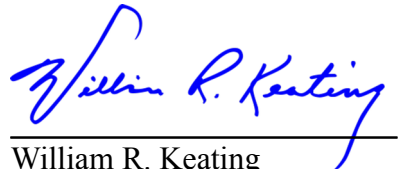
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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William R. Keating
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Eric Sorensen
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Jahana Hayes
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CC:
Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture

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