

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