



June 12, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to American agriculture. Your efforts to craft a bipartisan and timely farm bill will help provide additional certainty at a very challenging time. As you know, producers across the country are facing challenges associated with low prices, extreme weather, excess stocks, and trade uncertainty. Farmers and ranchers need a strong farm bill that provides meaningful relief.

Your bill is an important and consequential first step in this process. We appreciate many of the positive reforms included in the Chairman's mark. While we are still reviewing proposed amendments, we believe the amendments below would further strengthen this important piece of legislation. We urge the committee to support the following amendments, while rejecting other harmful amendments.

NFU supports:

Bennet	To increase financing and education for carbon capture and utilization and biogas in rural America.
Fischer	Provides year-round RVP waiver for E-15
Gillibrand	Refunds MPP premiums for producers between 2015-2017
Grassley	To establish a minimum contract length under real estate and operating loans
Grassley	To restore integrity and strengthen payment limitation rules for commodity payments and benefits
Klobuchar	To restore mandatory funding for certain energy programs
Klobuchar	To make native sod provisions applicable nationwide
Klobuchar	To modify provisions concerning the transition incentives program to provide for better land access for beginning farmers
Leahy	To eliminate the separate payment limit for organic and transitioning-to-organic producers in EQIP
Thune	To allow maintenance to be performed on USDA easement lands at landowner's expense
Thune	To allow haying and grazing flexibility on CRP-enrolled land

NFU Opposes:

Hoeven	Increasing FSA Guaranteed Loans from \$1.39 million to \$2.5 million.
Brown-Thune	Changes to the Price Loss Coverage Program

NFU recognizes the significant budget challenges the committee has had to grapple with, but I would be remiss if I did not mention our disappointment that this bill contains only modest increases in Title I funding. While total Title II funding is preserved, we were disappointed to see significant cuts to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program.

We are also deeply concerned by the impact heightening trade disputes could have on our nation's family farmers and ranchers. We urge the committee to explore the possibility of securing additional resources to cope with negative impacts of these trade disputes.

Thank you for your tireless efforts. We look forward to helping you address challenges that producers are facing by moving expeditiously to advance the 2018 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Roger Johnson,  
President

cc: Members, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, United State Senate