

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

America's farmers and ranchers commend your work to assist Americans affected by the coronavirus. As they work to ensure that the necessities of life such as food, feed, fuel, and fiber continue to be produced, we urge you to ensure that they have the necessary support in these very trying times.

Farmers, ranchers and the supply chain that support them will not let Americans down during this unprecedented crisis and they are asking the same of you. Millions of producers will need help with cash flow given the rapid and unanticipated decline in commodity prices, the likely closure of ethanol processing plants, the effective elimination of direct-to-consumer sales and decline in full-service restaurant and school meal demand. Congress must have farmers' and ranchers' backs by expanding and replenishing USDA's borrowing authority under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Farmers and ranchers are proud to be trusted to feed nearly 330 million Americans and we'll continue working every day to do so, but Congress must ensure the CCC has ample authority and funding to help farmers and ranchers survive during this emergency. The inclusion of these provisions would ensure the Secretary of Agriculture has the tools needed to meet this crisis head-on for all of agriculture.

We respectfully urge you to address these vital needs in the relief package you are developing now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
AMCOT  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Dairy Coalition  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Pulse Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers

Calcot  
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative  
CalFlowers  
Certified American Grown Flowers  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Farm Credit Council  
Livestock Marketing Association  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Produce Marketing Association  
Select Milk Producers  
Society of American Florists  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Staplcotn  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
United Egg Producers  
United States Cattlemen's Association  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
Western Peanut Growers Association