

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