



August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

On behalf of USA Rice, we write to express our support for the Agriculture Act of 2026 and urge you to advance this important legislation out of the Senate Agriculture Committee in a bipartisan manner.

USA Rice is the global advocate for all segments of the U.S. rice industry, including farmers, merchants, and food manufacturers. The majority of U.S. rice production is primarily in six major rice producing states, including Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas.

We greatly appreciate the hard work and efforts undertaken by the Committee to provide long-term certainty for the U.S. rice industry. Throughout the farm bill process, USA Rice has underscored the need to strengthen and bolster the farm safety net. We are incredibly grateful for past farm bill drafts introduced in the House and Senate that sought to make critical investments in the farm safety net, and we applaud Congress for strengthening it in the subsequent One Big Beautiful Bill Act. These investments – particularly in Title I are vital to ensuring an effective farm safety net going forward that will help maintain the stability of the U.S. rice industry, from our farms and through the rest of the rice value chain. However, much policy work remains to be done across the remaining farm bill titles to alleviate the extreme economic pressure facing the rice industry.

The Agricultural Act of 2026 builds on the momentum of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year with bipartisan support. At a time when the cost of production remains elevated for every major crop – exceeding \$1,400 per acre for rice in 2026 – the Agricultural Act of 2026 takes steps to reduce input price volatility and promote fertilizer price transparency. Additionally, this bill makes needed improvements to the Food for Peace Program by prioritizing food over cash. These vital program improvements not only help U.S. farmers by purchasing U.S. commodities rather than competitors', but they also ensure the U.S. maintains one of its most effective and affordable foreign diplomacy initiatives. Last, but certainly not least, we support the continued focus on voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led conservation; the modernization of current limits on Farm Service Agency ownership and operating loans; and efforts to deliver regulatory reform and restore transparency and science to the Federal government.

As we look forward to the Senate Agriculture Committee markup on Thursday, we look forward to working with you to defeat harmful amendments that may reverse key improvements made to strengthen the farm safety net as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and support amendments that might benefit U.S. agriculture. Specifically, we oppose amendments to Title I that would limit the effectiveness of the farm safety net and to those introduced in Title III that would deprioritize U.S. commodities in food aid programming. Additionally,

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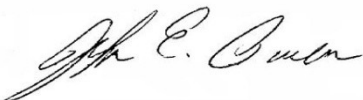
we would encourage the committee to include language that would codify the transfer of the administration of the Food for Peace Program to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA has a strong track record of procuring U.S. rice through the international food assistance programs it already administers, and we are confident that permanently transferring the Food for Peace authorities to USDA will benefit the U.S. rice industry. We also support inclusion of important changes to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which will marry the dual purpose of continued production and habitat protection with the longer term conservation commitments of producers.

There are several other provisions that could benefit the U.S. rice industry, and we look forward to working with you on this front as the process moves forward. The passage of a multi-year farm bill is important for rice producers and the entire U.S. rice industry, especially amid the current economic conditions the agriculture community is facing and the uncertainty ahead.

In addition to securing a multi-year farm bill this year, we were pleased to see that President Trump called on Congress to deliver additional farmer assistance this year, and that the House of Representatives has advanced a Budget Resolution that targets up to \$12 billion for U.S. agriculture. We understand the Agricultural Act of 2026 is narrowly focused on long-term support, but we encourage the Senate to also act in the near-term to provide critical relief to rice farmers, in addition to the certainty the farm safety net provides. Compared to USDA's earlier 2026 projections, total production costs were revised higher for every major crop included in its Commodity Cost and Returns report. Rice had the largest increase, with projected costs rising nearly \$75 per acre (5.6 percent), totaling \$1,411 per acre in 2026. USDA has proved it can deliver authorized assistance in a timely and accurate manner, and we urge Congressional action to provide meaningful relief to farmers in addition to enacting a long-term farm bill.

Again, we appreciate the Committee's hard work and commitment to the U.S. rice industry through the Agricultural Act of 2026. USA Rice supports the passage of this legislation and stands ready to work with each of you to bring this bill before the full Senate. USA Rice is grateful to you both for your years of friendship and strong support and leadership for American agriculture, including America's rice farmers and the entire industry.

Sincerely,



John Owen
Chair, USA Rice Federation



Fred Zaunbrecher
Chair, USA Rice Farmers

CC:

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable John Hoeven, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Joni Ernst, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Roger Marshall, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Tommy Tuberville, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable James Justice, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Senate Agriculture Committee Member

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The Honorable John Thune, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Deb Fischer, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Michael Bennet, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Tina Smith, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Cory Booker, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Raphael Warnock, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Peter Welch, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable John Fetterman, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Adam Schiff, Senate Agriculture Committee Member
The Honorable Elissa Slotkin, Senate Agriculture Committee Member