



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Glenn ‘G.T.’ Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig:

On behalf of USA Rice, we write to express our support for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

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 that the bipartisan Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 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.

Of particular interest in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 is the Committee’s focus on commodity-based, in-kind food aid and how Food for Peace is administered. USA Rice has long supported legislative efforts to significantly reform U.S. international food aid and transfer the administration of Food for Peace 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. Additionally, by further prioritizing food over cash, these programs 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. It also helps maintain domestic political support for U.S. food aid to help those around the globe who are in need of our assistance.

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. 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.

Again, we appreciate the Committee’s hard work and commitment to the U.S. rice industry through the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. USA Rice supports the passage of this legislation and stands ready to work with each of you to finalize the remaining sections of the farm bill. USA Rice is grateful to you both for

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your years of friendship and strong support and leadership for American agriculture, including America's rice farmers and the entire industry.

Sincerely,



Keith Glover
Chair, USA Rice Federation



Fred Zaunbrecher
Chair, USA Rice Farmers