

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Thank you for your announcement of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). For many family agricultural operations, this support will mean they are able to stay in business and pass farms and ranches on to the next generation of producers in spite of these challenging times.

However, we are concerned about the \$125,000 per commodity and \$250,000 per individual or entity payment limits as it relates to assistance for the livestock, dairy and specialty crop sectors. This limitation would severely restrict the program's effectiveness for many family-owned farms and ranches across the nation. We strongly urge you to eliminate payment limits for livestock, dairy and specialty crop producers before the final CFAP program details are announced.

The COVID-19 crisis has caused unprecedented damage to the livestock, dairy and specialty crop industries. Agricultural economists have estimated over \$13 billion in harm to the cattle industry and \$5 billion to the pork industry due to the pandemic, with many billions more in injury to dairies, fruit, nut, and vegetable producers, and the horticulture and floriculture industry. As is true for many other small businesses across the country, this financial harm comes through no fault of these farmers and ranchers, nor is it the result of typical market forces. As such, these relief payments should aim to indemnify as much loss as possible without restrictive payment limitations.

While some farmers and ranchers produce multiple commodities, and therefore will be eligible for up to the \$250,000 total payment limit per individual or entity, many cattle, pork and dairy operations are solely invested in livestock. This common business practice within the cattle, pork and dairy industries of being invested in a single commodity means this payment limit structure will be even more severe for these producers compared to other commodities. Fruit and vegetable producers by comparison can have very high costs of production—strawberry producers can invest \$30,000 an acre for example—and thus payment limits of this level are too restrictive to meaningfully address the losses many producers are facing.

It is critical for USDA to provide a level of support that is responsive to the disaster situation producers are currently facing. As you know, Congress approved \$14 billion in the CARES Act to partially replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation and we believe that a significant portion of these dollars should be used to ensure that needs are met, even if the payments must be paid in tranches.

We appreciate the support you and Secretary Perdue have provided farmers and ranchers, and we look forward to working with you make certain agricultural producers receive the level of assistance necessary in response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Ron Estes  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Ross Spano  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins  
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn  
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress

John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

John R. Carter  
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

Daniel P. Meuser  
Member of Congress

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

Martha Roby  
Member of Congress

David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503