

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 26, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell,

As Senators representing agriculture and rural America, we are deeply grateful for your steadfast support of our farmers and ranchers through the coronavirus pandemic. We write today to express support for inclusion of additional assistance for agriculture in future coronavirus response legislation.

As you are aware, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted every sector of the U.S. economy, and agriculture is no exception. Market volatility, demand destruction and supply chain interruptions across multiple segments of the industry have caused tremendous hardship for producers. This all comes in the midst of an eight-year recession in farm country, caused by low commodity prices, unfair foreign retaliatory trade actions and natural disasters. Net farm income has fallen by 30 percent, and farm bankruptcies have continued to climb during this period, a troubling trend made worse by the effects of COVID-19.

Thanks to your leadership, the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act includes \$20 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide relief to producers facing challenges caused by COVID-19. These funds would give USDA the resources to assist producers and processors whose operations have been threatened by the economic impact of the pandemic. We respectfully request that the same level of assistance be included in future coronavirus response legislation.

Americans benefit every single day from our hardworking farmers and ranchers. As Congress continues deliberations on legislation to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, we must support the men and women that provide food, fuel and fiber for our nation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Joni K. Ernst
U.S. Senator



Pat Roberts
U.S. Senator



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



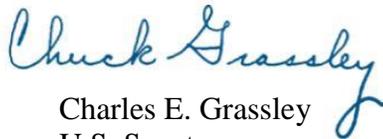
Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



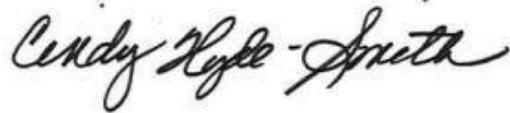
Deb Fischer
U.S. Senator



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senator



Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator



M. Michael Rounds
U.S. Senator

cc: The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Whip