

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
US House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
US House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We write to express our support for the inclusion of language in the continuing resolution (CR) which would allow USDA to move forward with the recently announced Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments.

As members of congress who represent agricultural communities throughout the United States, we repeatedly hear from farmers in our districts whose livelihoods have been severely impacted by the recent trade wars. Although we all have concerns about President Trump's approach to trade negotiations, we refuse to engage in the same tactics that punish our constituents and harm our communities that rely on agriculture.

Because the Administration has jeopardized Farm Bill payments with their ad hoc approach to dealing with the impacts of their trade war, we now need to also ensure that USDA can make upcoming Farm Bill payments in October and maintain funding for the marketing loan program during this harvest season.

We ask that the upcoming CR include the anomaly requested by USDA that would allow them to access the \$30 billion spending of the Commodity Credit Corporation prior to October 1st to ensure that MFP and farm bill payments continue to go out.

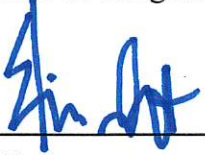
We cannot and will not allow our farmers to be used as political pawns and will wholeheartedly resist any efforts intended to stop or delay these planned payments while farm families are fighting for their economic survival.

We urge you to include this provision as you continue negotiations on a CR and thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,




Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress




Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



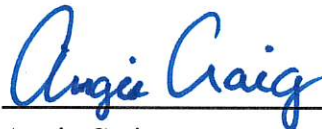
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



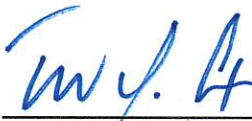
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



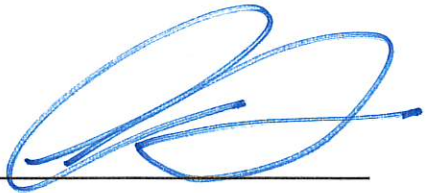
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress




Al Lawson
Member of Congress



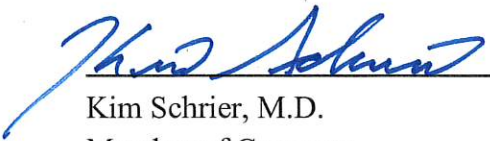
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Anthony Delgado
Member of Congress



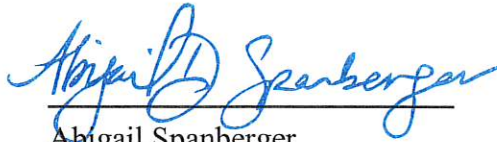
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress



Xochitil Torres Small
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

