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Mrs. Kate Gonzales
Office of United States Senator Kyrsten Sinema

Dear Kate,

I hope this finds you doing well during these challenging times. As always, we are appreciative of Senator Sinema's support for cotton as we know it is an important industry to Arizona.

The American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) writes to request Senator Sinema's signature and support of the attached letter circulated last week by Senators Tillis (R-NC) and Warner (D-VA) to Senate leadership requesting assistance for the US cotton industry in any COVID relief package that passes the Senate. The letter notes the extraordinary losses being faced by the industry.

ACSA consists of the merchandisers of US cotton who harmonize the needs of both their producing and consuming customers by managing risks, providing logistical services, and foremost maintaining liquidity for the supply chain, always. Our members have been faced with insurmountable carrying costs and credit risks due to extreme market sell offs caused by both policies related to the US/China Trade War and Pandemic from COVID-19. As these factors have compromised performance, demand, and value in the supply chain, US cotton merchants have been impacted to a point that the industry cannot withstand.

ACSA is grateful for the broad consensus reached within our industry. This industry wide agreement has yielded our collective recommendations to Congress outlining assistance to cotton producers, merchandisers, and domestic textile mills. We recognize and fully support this package of industry recommendations for support and request its complete inclusion in any further COVID relief legislation in the Senate. Further, ACSA requests that Congress work closely with industry leadership to best provide sound guidance in addition to funding to USDA to further sustain agriculture during this pandemic.

Senators Tillis and Warner plan to close the letter next week. Offices that would like to cosign the Tillis/Warner letter should contact Corey Weber (corey_weber@tillis.senate.gov) or Micah Barbour (micah_barbour@warner.senate.gov).

Please find the letter attached and the most recent summary of our cotton industry recommendations to Congress. I we can be a resource in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you in advance for considering our request to support of the US cotton industry.

With regards,

Buddy Allen, ACSA President

