



SENATOR JOHN HOEVEN
NORTH DAKOTA

October 1, 2020

Mr. William Allen
American Cotton Shippers Association
88 Union Avenue Suite 1204
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of American agriculture. As Congress debated a continuing resolution this September and the fate of farm bill program funding hung in the balance, you played a pivotal role in defending our farmers and ranchers.

As you know, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds vital pieces of the farm bill, including the counter-cyclical safety net, risk management, and working lands conservation programs. The regular reimbursement of the CCC ensures that producers are able to access these programs without interruption. Unfortunately, some in Congress were objecting to adding this CCC reimbursement to the continuing resolution, despite its inclusion in the past. In fact, the initial continuing resolution introduced on September 21st in the House, H.R. 8319, failed to provide any reimbursement for the CCC, threatening to shut down needed farm bill programs.

Yet, by the time H.R. 8319 was introduced, a decisive action had already been made that would ensure farm bill funding would go on uninterrupted: you joined over 40 agriculture leaders in a letter to support full CCC reimbursement. The letter you signed was a critical factor in overcoming objections to reimbursing the CCC. In fact, the letter was cited on the Senate floor during two colloquies I led with several of my colleagues, and it was brought up during countless conversations during the final week of continuing resolution negotiations. Your voice for agriculture helped change the course of these appropriations deliberations, tilting the scales in favor of our agricultural producers.

During this time of low commodity prices, bad weather, and market volatility, we must fully fund the farm bill. I appreciate you making a stand for agriculture so that all Americans can benefit from producers who provide food, fuel, and fiber for our nation. I look forward to working together in the future on behalf of our farmers and ranchers. My sincere thanks and appreciation to you.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator