

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
U.S. Office of Management and Budget  
727 17<sup>th</sup> ST, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Young, Secretary Vilsack, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Collins:

As farmers across the country and throughout U.S. territories work to recover from severe natural disasters, we write to urge you to expeditiously provide robust emergency relief for farmers in any must-pass legislative vehicle that comes before Congress before the end of the year.

For years, historic and extreme weather has caused significant damage to our agricultural industry. Our producers have told us that before they can even recover from a severe weather

event, their operations are hit once again with another serious weather event. Unfortunately, hit after hit means that small farms throughout the country are closing in record numbers.

Many of these extreme weather events have occurred during peak months of the growing season. For example, earlier this fall, Hurricane Helene made landfalls in Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, before causing massive destruction throughout Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. In August, Hurricane Debby hit farms in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Just a few weeks earlier, in July, Hurricane Beryl damaged crops throughout Texas, especially along the coast. Further north, the 2023 season brought devastating floods and late season freeze to New England states like New Hampshire. This year, New England growers dealt with yet another summer of extreme weather, with flooding, hail, and severe wind affecting producers from Connecticut through Vermont. California producers, similarly, were inundated with multiple atmospheric river floods and heavy rainfall events. In Michigan, vegetable and tree fruit growers experienced the whiplash of extreme flooding last year followed by late season freezes and other abnormal weather events this year; in western states, thousands of acres have burned due to catastrophic wildfire events; and in Puerto Rico, Hurricane Ernesto hit farmers in August of 2024. But regardless of region or cause of loss, producers across the country experienced the devastating impacts of severe weather in 2023 and 2024 since Congress last enacted partial disaster assistance for losses in 2022.

Our farmers are in dire need of direct and accessible monetary assistance to simply stay afloat. To this end, it is essential that Congress provide emergency supplemental funds to agricultural producers so that they can continue to feed our country and our international trading partners, and to secure our domestic food supply for the future. Congress must act to prevent the permanent loss of farmland, as without federal assistance, many producers have no choice but to sell their land to developers, losing precious farmland in perpetuity.

While crop insurance has provided nearly \$17.5 billion in indemnities for 2023 losses and already over \$5 billion in indemnities for losses this year before even most of the hurricane impacts are calculated, many farmers (especially diversified small and medium farms) have policies that are not well designed for their circumstance or rely on the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), which provides much lower levels of protection. Even with new policies like the hurricane insurance index policy that are available, the intensity of the disasters last year and this year has overwhelmed the safety net.

Congress must replenish emergency disaster funds and ensure that the program covers a variety of crops and lowers the paperwork burden for small and medium-sized farms. Importantly, these emergency relief funds should *not* be considered as an alternative to providing a full multi-year Farm Bill reauthorization. Ideally, such assistance can and should be included alongside enactment of an updated, long-term Farm Bill that continues to broaden the reach of the farm safety net and risk management tools to all producers, including provisions ensuring producers in underserved regions and of underserved crops can access those tools. Regardless, we request that this ad-hoc relief is included in any must-pass legislative vehicle before the end of the year. We also encourage the Office of Management and Budget to work closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure funding needs are accurately calculated and represented.

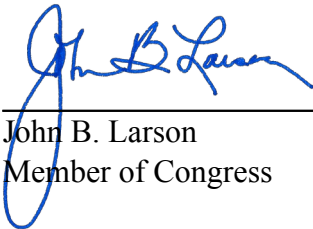
Please feel free to reach out to our offices directly if we can help with providing information about types and size of losses, as we want to ensure that any requests do not undercount the losses that farmers are experiencing in our states, especially since some producers with losses do not currently have crop insurance, which can impact data collection.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

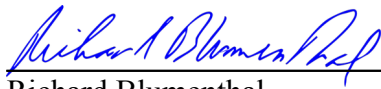
CC:

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC, 20500



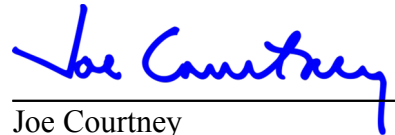
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



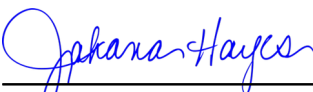
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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



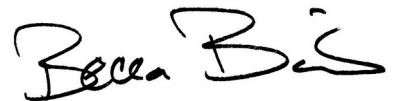
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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



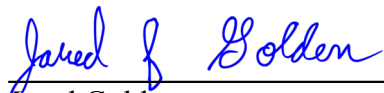
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



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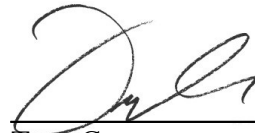
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress




Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



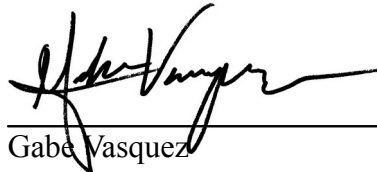
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



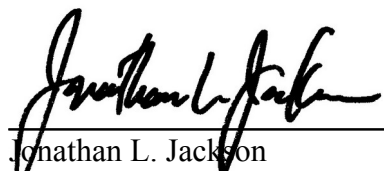
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



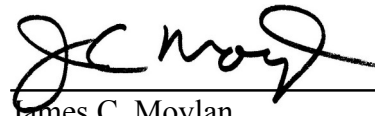
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



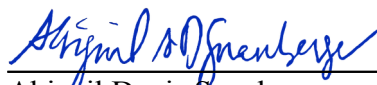
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



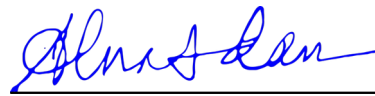
James C. Moylan  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



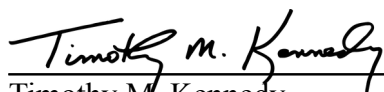
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



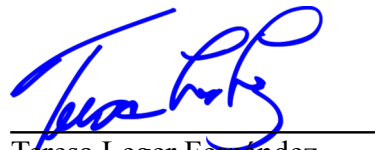
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



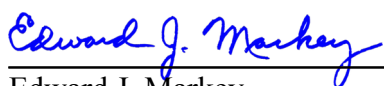
Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



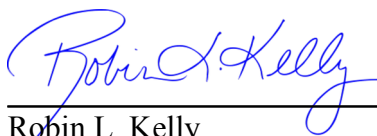
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



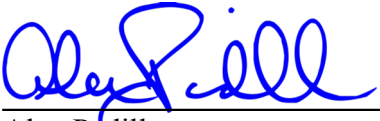
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



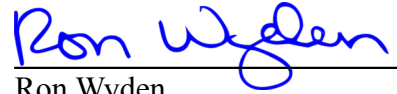
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



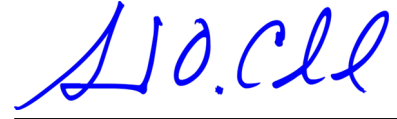
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



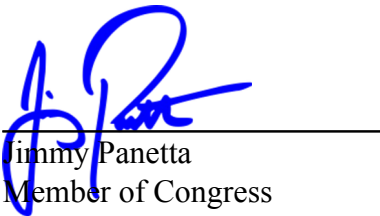
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



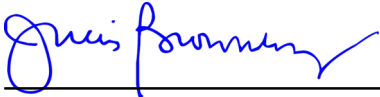
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress