

July 26, 2021

The Honorable David Scott
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable G.T. Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Thompson,

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) extends our profound appreciation to you for holding a committee business meeting to markup H.R. 267, the 2020 WHIP+ Reauthorization Act.

Last year's weather and natural disasters pummeled farms and ranches across the United States, leaving over \$3.6 billion in uncovered crop and rangeland losses in their wake. The full extent of damages across the sector is likely far higher when livestock, infrastructure, timber and other ag-related factors are considered. Already in 2021, farmers and ranchers have been hit with severe winter storms, extreme drought and record flooding. The stability of U.S. farms and ranches relies on their ability to be resilient under an array of unpredictable weather conditions.

AFBF is grateful to have the House Agriculture Committee markup a bill that addresses our concerns. Having the assurance that smoke taint in wine grapes due to wildfires; high winds, derechos, excessive heat and freeze are all covered is very important to our members who had to deal with these disasters over the past two crop years. We support efforts to reauthorize the WHIP+ Milk Loss Program and the On-Farm Storage Loss Program for 2020 and 2021. We also encourage efforts to expand the drought trigger from D3 on the drought monitor to a Secretarial drought designation, meaning D2 for eight consecutive weeks.

Thank you again for working so diligently on this issue, making sure all voices were heard. As AFBF begins our internal Farm Bill Working Group in preparation for the 2023 Farm Bill, we look forward to working with the Committee and Congress on longer term solutions for disaster assistance, while also ensuring producers continue to have access to robust crop insurance products.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall, President