



March 2, 2026

The Honorable GT Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

On behalf of the California's farmers, ranchers and foresters, I am writing to express California Farm Bureau's support for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

California Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 54 county Farm Bureaus currently representing approximately 28,000 agricultural, associate, and collegiate members in 57 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers, ranchers and foresters engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable, safe, an affordable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

California Farm Bureau greatly appreciates your ongoing dedication to advancing the farm bill process and including key provisions that will modernize farm policy, increase certainty and enhance the competitiveness of California's farms and ranches. As you know, farmers and ranchers have been without certainty of a new farm bill since it first expired in 2023 and farmers across America have been grappling with low commodity prices, rising supply costs, inflation and uncertain international trade dynamics. The time for Congress to pass a new farm bill is now.

While H.R. 1 included helpful provisions for many, there are still numerous important programs critical to California agriculture that need updating. Although we are disappointed to see a redirection of some Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding, a critical working lands conservation program for California, we believe the Farm, Food and National Security Act overall provides our producers with more certainty thus strengthening America's rural communities. We are especially appreciative of the inclusion of the following provisions:

- Expanded access to risk management tools as well as a standing framework for providing support to specialty crop producers in times of economic hardship.
- Incentivization of innovation and technology, including the promotion of precision agriculture within conservation programs.



- Rural development investments especially those provisions strengthening broadband access in rural communities.
- Expanded funding for both the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP). Both programs have been well received by farmers and offer improved opportunities for producers to bring their goods to international markets.
- Reauthorization and approval of funds for several research programs and initiatives, particularly those focusing on animal health, pests, and plant diseases. Renewed investments into veterinary medicine will also bring much-needed support.
- Enhancement of forest management for forest health and wildfire risk reduction.

Passing an updated farm bill is critical to managing risk on the farm, keeping rural communities thriving and feeding our nation and the world. Once again, we thank you for your dedication to modernizing America's farm policy and strongly support Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shannon Douglass'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHANNON DOUGLASS
President

CC: Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, Angie Craig
The Honorable Salud Carbajal
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Adam Gray