

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts:

Thank you for scheduling the upcoming hearing related to credit in rural America and the important role the Farm Credit System plays delivering this vital resource. We wish to formally add our names to the hearing record standing firmly in support of the Farm Credit System. As members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry we know that you share our concern that agriculture and rural communities have access to a broad range of lenders to meet their credit needs. Farm Credit fills an important role, as do other lenders including commercial banks, in meeting the needs of the producers our respective organizations represent.

As you know, prices of agricultural commodities have increasingly come under pressure. Concerns are growing that we may be entering a prolonged period of instability in the agricultural economy. Credit availability in good times is singularly important to our respective members. Credit availability in tough times may well mean the difference between producers staying on the land or being forced to abandon their operations.

It is our belief that the Farm Credit System and commercial banks play critical roles in ensuring that farmers, ranchers and other rural Americans have access to constructive, competitive credit on an ongoing basis. The array of credit products offered by both the Farm Credit System and commercial banks, often in a collaborative, cooperative manner, ensures that agricultural producers and their industry sector partners have access to financial tools that are vital to their success. We need all the resources that can be made available to sustain agriculture and rural America now and into the future.

Sincerely,

AgSmarts
American Agricultural Movement
American Agri-Women
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Fruit Processors & Growers Coalition
AmericanHort
American Mushroom Institute
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers Association

American Sugar Cane League
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
California Association of Winegrape Growers
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Fruit and Produce Growers
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Irrigation Association
Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Christmas Tree Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
SNF, Inc.
Southeast Dairy Farmers Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
The Land Improvement Contractors of America
United Egg Producers
United States Beet Sugar Association
US Cattlemen's Association
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
US Poultry & Egg Association
USA Rice
Western Growers
Women Involved in Farm Economics

To be sent to all members of the Senate Ag Committee