

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Glenn “G.T.” Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1300 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1300 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott:

Thank you for your vital work on behalf of American agriculture to strengthen and sustain farm operations in our nation. Toward that end, as Members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, we wanted to call your attention to the critical opportunity to address farm policy challenges throughout our state in reauthorizing the upcoming Farm Bill.

Ohio has the ninth most farms in the US, and agriculture is the state's largest provider to the economy. The state has over 75,000 farms and ranches, with agriculture providing one in seven jobs in Ohio.¹ As such, it is imperative to maintain and foster the continued strength of our region’s food and farm supply chain in federal agriculture policy.

Our state’s agriculture producers continue to face uncertainty due to rising input costs at the farm gate, limited trade opportunities, volatile commodity markets, and other challenges to sustained agriculture production in our state. Ohio producers play a key role in our nation’s food supply and provide food commodities to critical overseas markets.

Therefore, Ohio agricultural sectors have identified key priorities to farm economies in federal agriculture policy, which we as members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation call to your attention, and ask for consideration in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill:

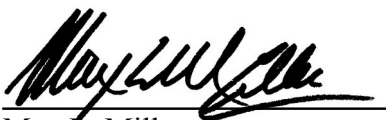
- *Strengthen the farm safety net for commodities, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, and disaster assistance.*
- *Enable viable and affordable access to crop insurance, critical risk management tools currently utilized by the vast majority of Ohio farmers.*
- *Develop, strengthen, and expand trade markets through agricultural export promotion programs.*
- *Support robust agricultural research and extension programs to assist farmers in more efficient crop production, foster innovation in non-traditional and urban agriculture, improve crop quality, lower input costs, enhance technology advancements, and sustain natural resources.*

¹ Ohio Department of Agriculture


- *Foster the development of agricultural renewable energy systems to expand the markets for the U.S. and strengthen the domestic energy supply, while lowering costs for American consumers.*
- *Encourage environmental stewardship of farmlands, ranchlands, grasslands, and forests, as well as improve natural resources management through voluntary incentive-based conservation practices.*
- *Build investments in infrastructure for processing, manufacturing, transportation, and distribution for a stronger U.S. food supply chain.*
- *Strengthening rural economic security by boosting rural development and critical infrastructure.*
- *Support the production of specialty crops to meet plant pest and disease, marketing, research, and production challenges.*
- *Bolster and improve the local and regional food system to build community resilience, support small-scale farmers, and reduce carbon emissions associated with food transportation.*
- *Safeguard the nation's food supply against threats posed by foreign animal diseases.*
- *Protect Federal nutrition assistance programs by improving access to eligible households, streamlining program delivery to vulnerable communities, supporting access to healthy food options, and uplifting the underserved by ensuring eligibility for training and nutrition programs.*
- *Strengthen beginning farmer programming to improve access to loans and land to cultivate the next generation of farmers equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate modern challenges in agriculture.*

As Congress considers the re-authorization of the Farm Bill, we have a unique opportunity to address the broad range of challenges facing Ohio's farmers and livestock producers with a focus on strengthening and sustaining farm operations for generations to come. In keeping with federal budgetary constraints, we appreciate your attention and ask for your consideration of these vital Farm Bill objectives.

Sincerely,



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



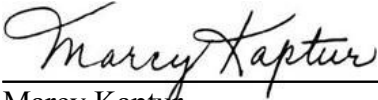
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



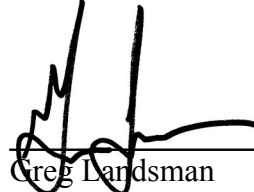
Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



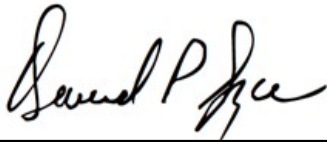
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress