

July 17, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request economic assistance from your Administration to help bridge the gap until a new farm bill is adopted by Congress. Without some action by the Federal government, nearly 18,000 cotton families will continue to see their equity erode or take on a greater debt load as they hope to keep their family farms in operation.

In the past decade, the U.S. cotton industry has suffered from global market and policy distortions, a trade challenge within the World Trade Organization (WTO), and dramatic changes in U.S. cotton policies. Those policy changes were the result of Brazil successfully challenging certain provisions of previous U.S. cotton policy. As a result, America's cotton farming families are at a competitive disadvantage with our global competitors due to significant government subsidies and restrictive trade barriers.

In the absence of the safety net offered to other crops, cotton producers are much more exposed to the volatile nature of commodity markets and global policy manipulations. Unfortunately, the economic pressures do not stop with the producer as the ripple effects are felt throughout an industry infrastructure spanning 17 states from Virginia to California. The 20,000 businesses consisting of farms, gins, warehouses, marketing cooperatives, merchants, cottonseed processors and merchandisers, and textile manufacturers employing 126,000 people, and generating over \$21 billion in revenue, are at risk of further contraction if a stabilizing policy is not implemented.

In an effort to help stabilize the industry, we strongly request that the Administration, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), operate the Cotton Ginning Cost Share Program effective for the 2016 crop year and on an ongoing basis. The cost share program will provide policy stability in the absence of a comprehensive policy for cotton in the existing farm bill. A cost share program was operated by the previous Administration for the 2015 crop and proved to be an effective and efficient means of providing economic relief to America's cotton farming families.

We strongly support the Administration taking this action and stand ready to work with USDA in order to expedite implementation. We appreciate your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
National Cotton Council
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Alabama Cotton Commission
AMCOT
American Cotton Shippers Association
Arkansas Warehouse Association
Arkansas Cotton Ginners Association
Arizona Cotton Growers Association

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arizona Cotton Ginners Association
Autauga Quality Cotton Association
Blacklands Cotton and Grain Association
Calcot
California Association of Grower Owned Gins
California Cotton Growers and Ginners Assoc.
California Farm Bureau Federation
Choice Cotton Company
Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative
Corn Producers Association of Texas
Cotton and Grain Producers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Cottonseed & Feed Association
Delta Council
Georgia Cotton Commission
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Isle of Wight County Farm Bureau
Kansas Cotton Association
Lamesa Cotton Growers Association
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Louisiana Cotton Ginners Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Louisiana Independent Cotton Warehouse Assoc.
Lubbock Texas Chamber of Commerce
Mississippi Cotton Ginners Association
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Cotton Ginners Association
Missouri Cotton Producers Association
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Cottonseed Products Association
National Council of Textile Organizations
New Mexico Cotton Ginners Association
New Mexico Pecos Valley Farmers Assoc.
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association

Oklahoma Cotton Council
Oklahoma Cotton Ginners Association
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers
St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association
South Carolina Cotton Board
South Texas Cotton and Grain Association
Southern Cotton Ginners Association
Southern Plains of TX Assoc. of Governments
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.
Southern-Southeastern Inc.
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Staplcotn Cooperative
Supima
TN American Agricultural Movement
Tennessee Cotton Ginners Association
Terry County, Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Cotton Association
Texas Cotton Producers Association
Texas Cotton Ginners Association
Texas Cotton Association
Texas Grain Sorghum Association
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Texas Independent Ginners Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Farm Bureau Federation
Texas Wheat Producers Association
Texas Soybean Association
Texas Poultry Federation
Virginia Cotton Board
Virginia Cotton Growers
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
West Texas Young Farmer's Association

Cc: Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture