



P.O. Box 2995 • Cordova, TN 38088-2995
(901) 274-9030 • FAX (901) 725-0510
www.cotton.org

PRODUCERS • GINNERS • WAREHOUSEMEN • MERCHANTS • COTTONSEED • COOPERATIVES • MANUFACTURERS

April 17, 2018

Honorable Mike Conaway
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

The National Cotton Council and the 45 undersigned cotton industry organizations support the Committee's introduction and consideration of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. We understand there are differing views and priorities for the Farm Bill within the Committee and the broader House membership, and recognize the current differences with respect to the bill's nutrition title. The Committee's consideration of the Farm Bill is the first step in a lengthy process that we hope to see completed this year so producers and their lenders have the long-term certainty and predictability that are necessary to continue meeting our nation's food and fiber needs. We strongly support completion of the Farm Bill reauthorization this year in order to avoid the need for an extension of the current Farm Bill.

As you are acutely aware, farmers across the country are continuing to suffer through challenging market conditions compounded by significant weather events. For U.S. cotton producers, a significant hole in the safety net was mended by the inclusion of 'seed cotton' as a covered commodity in ARC/PLC as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. We greatly appreciate the bipartisan support and continuation of this key policy in the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. Also, we recognize the difficult budget climate within which the Committee must work to develop the new legislation, and the ability to address a number of the U.S. cotton industry's priorities is to be commended. As the legislative process moves forward, we look forward to working with the Committee to identify any potential opportunity to address other cotton industry recommendations.

Thank you for your commitment to U.S. agriculture and the men and women who commit their lives to the fundamental task of feeding and clothing our nation and countless others around the world. We look forward to working with you, Ranking Member Peterson, and other Committee Members on this important policy throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Alabama Cotton Commission
Ancot
American Agriculture Movement of Tennessee
Arizona Cotton Ginnery Association
Arizona Cotton Growers Association
Arkansas Cotton Warehouse Association
Autauga Quality Cotton Association

Blackland Cotton and Grain Producers Association
Calcot, Ltd.
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative
Cotton and Grain Producers of Lower Rio Grande Valley
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Cotton Producers of Missouri
Cottonseed and Feed Association
Delta Council
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Georgia Cotton Commission
Kansas Cotton Association
Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Louisiana Independent Cotton Warehouse Association
National Cotton Council
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Cottonseed Products Association
National Council of Textile Organizations
New Mexico Cotton Ginners Association
New Mexico Pecos Valley Farmers Association
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association
Oklahoma Cotton Council
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Plains Cotton Growers
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association
South Carolina Cotton Board
South Texas Cotton and Grain Association
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association
Southern Cotton Ginners Association
Southern Cotton Growers
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association
St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association
Staple Cotton Cooperative Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Texas Cotton Ginners Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Virginia Cotton Growers Association

cc: Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee
cc: House Agriculture Committee Cotton State Members