

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