



May 20, 2015

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
320A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
320A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of National Farmers Union's 200,000 members, I applaud your work on the reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA). As you are aware, this issue is of great importance to producers across the country. Your work to swiftly move legislation ahead of the law's expiration is both appreciated and a credit to your commitment to producers who rely on this standard.

While NFU would have liked to see a clean reauthorization of the USGSA, we recognize that circumstances leading to the disruption in inspection services dictate that a reassertion of existing law is necessary. As we have written to you previously, we remain concerned over legislation advanced by the House Committee on Agriculture. Your committee's draft legislation takes serious steps toward addressing our previously highlighted concerns. Most notably, the proposed protocol related to a disruption in services is transparent, succinct and meaningful. The fashion in which you structured the reporting and notification requirements, streamlined certain provisions of the underlying law, and converged timelines for designated and delegated authorities and the reauthorization will provide additional confidence in a system respected the world over.

Of the list of previously highlighted concerns, we would once again like to reiterate our preference for a reauthorization that lasts 10 years instead of the proposed five. Such a horizon would provide producers and industry the certainty they deserve. We would ask that you once again consider this timeframe during your business meeting on USGSA reauthorization.

We recognize that there were many competing demands on your committee as you worked to construct this draft legislation. While we would prefer to see some changes to this legislation, it is nonetheless a compromise that we can support. We thank you and your respective staffs for the work carried out to reauthorize the USGSA.

We remain ready to assist you in your ongoing work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Johnson".

Roger Johnson  
President

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry