

August 15, 2018

To: Senate Conferees
From: Animal Agriculture Stakeholders
Re: Establishment of a permanent, fully funded National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program

Dear Senate Farm Bill Conferees,

Congratulations on the tremendous progress you have made towards the enactment of a new farm bill.

The animal agriculture community appreciates the inclusion of a National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program in both the House and Senate versions of H.R. 2. An outbreak of a foreign animal disease, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Avian Influenza (AI), has the ability to cripple the entire agricultural sector and create long-lasting ramifications for the economic viability of U.S. aquaculture, livestock and poultry production. It is critical that the new Farm Bill provide permanent, full funding to address these risks to animal health while likewise bolstering the long-term ability of U.S. animal agriculture to be competitive in the global marketplace and provide consumers around the world safe, wholesome, affordable food produced in a sustainable manner.

As you are aware, we have called on Congress, in the 2018 Farm Bill, to establish and fully fund a permanent three-pronged program to deliver the sufficient development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and rapidly respond to the potential catastrophic impacts that an animal disease outbreak would have on our country's food security, export markets, and overall economic stability.

It is essential that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), state animal health officials and stakeholders involved in animal agriculture have: (1) early detection, prevention, and rapid response tools to address any potential animal disease outbreak; (2) robust laboratory capacity for surveillance and diagnostics to enable timely action; and (3) a viable stockpile of vaccine to rapidly respond to the intentional or unintentional introduction of a high consequence disease like FMD. We cannot wait. The arrival of highly pathogenic AI in our country in 2014 clearly demonstrated the implications of these diseases, both financially and from an animal welfare standpoint. In that outbreak, the direct cost to taxpayers was nearly \$1 billion, while the costs to the poultry industry were more than \$3 billion.

Livestock producers and animal health experts are particularly concerned about the potential introduction of FMD. FMD is at this time the most significant transboundary animal disease in the world and presents the greatest economic threat to U.S. animal agriculture. Recent studies indicate that the cumulative 10-year loss due to an uncontrolled FMD outbreak would be \$199.8 billion.

We are aware that in the early stages of farm bill development, proposed funding levels for this new critical program did not reach the levels we believe are necessary. This fact was driven home as a full House motion to instruct conferees garnered 392 votes supporting the animal agriculture industry, advocating for the needed baseline funding in the final package that will be sent to the President's desk. Animal agriculture continues to represent approximately half of all farm cash receipts, and over half when considering receipts from crops for animal feed. We urge you to include these necessary funds in conference as part of the permanent authorization proposed in the

Senate bill. We believe this is needed to develop the gold standard animal disease preparedness and response program that this country needs. Thank you for your consideration of our priorities. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alabama Cattlemen's Association
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Dairy Goat Association
Animal Dairy Science Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Goat Federation
American Horse Council
American National Cattle Women
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Animal Science
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Cattlemen's Association
Arizona Pork Council
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Cattlemen's Association
California Pork Producers Association
California Poultry Federation
Catfish Farmers of America
Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Egg Producers
Colorado Livestock Association
FASS, Inc.
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Poultry Federation
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Hawaii Beef Industry Council
Hawaii Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Cattlemen's Association
Illinois Beef Association

Illinois Pork Producers Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition
Indiana State Poultry Association
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Poultry Association
Iowa Turkey Federation
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Pork Producers Association
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Poultry Association
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Pork Association
Mycobacterial Disease of Animals Multistate Initiative
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Dairy Herd Information Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producer's Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderer's Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Wool Growers
New York Beef Producer's Association
North American Meat Institute

North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Poultry Federation
North Dakota Pork Council
North Dakota Stockman's Association
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Poultry Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
PennAg Industries Association
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Poultry Federation
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Poultry Industries Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Poultry Federation
The Poultry Federation: Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas
United Egg Association – Further Processors Division
United Egg Producers
United States Animal Health Association
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee
U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Beef Industry Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Pork Council
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association
Wyoming Stock Growers Association