

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2025

Ms. Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

As you work to establish priorities for the coming weeks and months, we urge you to move forward as quickly as possible on providing disaster relief for farmers.

As you know, the American Relief Act provided significant natural and economic disaster assistance for row crop farmers who experienced economic losses resulting from declining prices and stagnant input costs during the 2024 crop year. Specialty crop growers have faced similar economic challenges, and USDA must complete the planned second round of assistance for them.

The Senate Agriculture Committee recently held a hearing where we heard compelling testimony from farmers across the country who face uncertainty heading into spring planting season. Proposed tariffs on key trading partners like Canada, which could drive up input prices, and the potential for retaliatory tariffs from key export markets have only exacerbated that uncertainty.

Farmers are making decisions right now about fertilizer usage and their crop mix and are working with their bankers to figure out if they can secure the financing they need to continue farming this year. Without the timely delivery of economic and disaster assistance, farmers face the prospect of reducing plantings or liquidating assets to remain in business as they head into another potentially difficult growing season.

The American Relief Act included a detailed formula for determining economic loss, which was intended in part to speed implementation. During implementation, we ask that you engage with impacted farmers and other groups, particularly regarding the implementation of the per-acre payment rates for commodities. We urge you to use the precedent of previous ad hoc programs to simplify the experience for farmers by leveraging existing loss data and to pre-fill applications for producers.

Farmers of fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops have also experienced difficult economic conditions and high input prices. Specialty crop producers have already applied for and received initial payment under the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC), and USDA should make the planned additional payments before we get into the growing season.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to working with you to help our farmers succeed.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



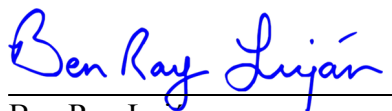
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



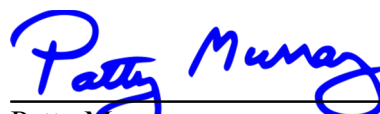
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



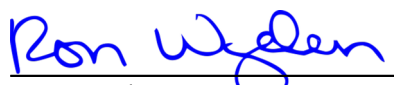
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator

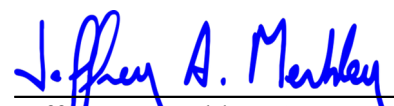


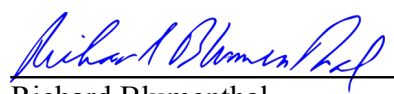
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator