

natural resources. Let us not forget that in a few short decades, the global population will top 9 billion people—some are saying even 10 billion. Agriculture production will need to double in the near future to meet that demand. Accomplishing this task requires efficiency, not just on the farm and ranch but also in our government.

We must focus on program integrity—we have done that—and common-sense investments to strengthen our nutrition programs to ensure the long-term health and success of those in need of assistance. We have done that in this bill with efficiencies, reform, and a priority with regard to program integrity.

With trade and market uncertainty, to say the least, we must provide certainty for our trade promotion and research programs. Today we are losing our markets. Kansas wheat is not going to Mexico. Mexico is buying its wheat from Argentina. It is the same for corn. Our corn is not going down to Mexico. Mexico is buying their corn from Brazil.

I think it could be said that when a tariff is imposed to try to improve trade deficits, you also run the risk—and we have already seen it happen—of retaliation, and retaliation comes back directly on our producers and agriculture.

That is why we have to have this bill passed. Feeding an increasing global population is not just an agricultural challenge, it is a national security challenge. Show me a country that cannot feed itself, and I will show you a nation in chaos. This means we need to grow more and raise more with fewer resources. That is going to take investments in research, new technology, lines of credit, and proper risk management. It takes the government providing tools and then getting out of the producers' way.

In this bill, we have made and must make tough choices and be judicious with the scarce resources we have. Through an open and deliberate hearing process over the last 18 months, Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee have asked tough questions, reexamined programs to determine their effectiveness, and tried to ensure programs accomplish their fundamental purposes. Agriculture, and specifically the farm bill, has consistently answered the call to do more with less. To those who say passing a farm bill in this environment is a daunting task—and, yes, it is—I say, together we can get this done.

I think about the folks back home right now. I would like to point out that the wheat harvest is still growing across Kansas, starting in Nebraska, and headed for South Dakota and North Dakota. These farmers in the midst of harvest are facing Mother Nature. The unknown of a thunderstorm or hailstorm can hit just as they try to harvest their grain. In Kansas, we have a drought, but we are still hopeful we can harvest a reasonable crop.

We must adopt the attitude of our producers—optimism and ingenuity. A farmer doesn't plant a seed in the ground without the faith and optimism of harvesting a good crop. That is what we should do. That means, with bipartisan support, we must do our job. We must pass a bill that provides those same men and women the much needed certainty and predictability they deserve. Again, that is the paramount issue.

I know many Members have concerns. Many Members have amendments that want to address a specific problem. They feel very strongly about it, and we are here to help. We are here to help them to address such issues in this bill, but we also have to understand the tough challenges we face. Farmers, ranchers, and growers are in a very difficult time. We must respond to that. We are the Agriculture Committee. We must accept that challenge. We must be champions for these people, and we need a bill. That is the No. 1 issue—certainty and predictability during a very difficult time for our farmers, our ranchers, and our growers.

Now, this is not the best possible bill, but it is the best bill possible under these circumstances. So I look forward to working with my colleagues on continuing to move this process forward.

To my partner in this process, Senator STABENOW, thank you so much for your help and cooperation and working together. I look forward to working with you toward that goal in the days ahead. Let's get this bill done.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed Calendar No. 483, to H.R. 2, a bill to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I thank the majority and minority leaders for bringing this bill to the floor for consideration as quickly as they have done. I appreciate all the Agriculture Committee members on both sides of the aisle for working together to write this important legislation. Most importantly, many thanks to my friend and my partner, Chairman PAT ROBERTS, for his work and his leadership and his commitment to our farmers and grow-

ers throughout this process. It is a great pleasure to work with him.

From the very beginning of this process, Chairman ROBERTS and I made a commitment that we would deliver a strong bipartisan farm bill. Despite the long road we faced, we stayed true to our word. I am proud to say that we wrote a bill that will provide certainty, as the chairman talked about, to our farmers, our families, and rural communities.

We stayed focused on strengthening our Nation's diverse agricultural economy and the 16 million jobs it supports. This is a jobs bill for America. A lot of those jobs are in my home State of Michigan, where our food and agricultural economy supports one out of four jobs in Michigan.

People look at us as an auto State, which we proudly are, an auto manufacturing State. We make things, but we make things and we grow things. I don't think you can have an economy or a middle class unless somebody makes things and grows things. That is what we do. This bill is critical to both of those things. The farm bill helps us make things and grow things, and it is critical to our Michigan economy and to the economy of the country.

Even though agriculture supports the livelihood of so many families, the rest of us may take for granted the work they do and how much we depend on them to be successful. After all, we all have to eat, and the food on our plates comes from a farm or a ranch. Farms like Everbest Organics in Munger, MI, grow the black beans you may find in your burrito. Dietrich Orchards in Conklin produces the apple slices your kids might eat as a snack.

The men and women who own and operate so many farms in Michigan and across this country are the reason our grocery shelves are stocked with the safest, most affordable food in the world. The food we eat depends on the hard work they put in day in and day out. They do this work knowing the great risks they face. For a farmer, a year of work can be lost in a single day. I saw an example of that in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan just yesterday, where severe flooding and mudslides have caused unimaginable losses in Houghton, MI, and Hancock and the surrounding small towns. A number of farms in Menominee County experienced heavy damage. The loss of hay alone will hurt dairy and cattle operations for weeks and months to come.

On top of the uncertainty farmers face from Mother Nature, they also contend with unpredictable markets and certainly unpredictable situations today in terms of Federal policy. The farm economy is struggling right now with low prices. Many farm families are struggling to make ends meet. Uncertainty about international trade is definitely not helping.

When times are tough, the farm bill provides a strong safety net to protect our farmers and ranchers. We took

steps to strengthen the risk-management tools and crop insurance to help producers of all types protect their businesses from unexpected losses. We create that risk-management safety net for all types of farms, large and small.

We also made a number of important changes for our dairy farmers. The dairy support in the last farm bill, unfortunately, did not work as expected, leaving many family dairy farms without a reliable safety net. In addition to the \$1.1 billion we secured in the Bipartisan Budget Act, we replaced the Margin Protection Program with new, affordable coverage for dairy farmers when the market dips.

Thanks to the support and the leadership of Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator BALDWIN, and Senator KLOBUCHAR, we also refund premiums for dairy farmers who did not see returns under the old safety net.

From commodities and dairy to specialty crops and urban farming, the strength of American agriculture is rooted in the diversity of what we grow and how we grow it. This is certainly true in Michigan, where we grow more crops than every other State but one—that little State called California. We are working on that one.

Our farm bill continues to support the wide variety of farms all across America, big and small, urban and rural. We invest in the bright future of agriculture by helping new and beginning farmers, including young people and returning veterans. We expand agricultural market opportunities so our farmers can make a living. Historic investments in organic farming help producers tap into one of the fastest growing sectors of agriculture.

New and permanent investments in international trade promotion will help our farmers sell their production abroad. Streamlined, permanent support for farmers markets, food hubs, and local food processing will help our farmers sell to their neighbors.

Just as the farm bill provides a safety net for farmers, it also provides a safety net for our families. We know nutrition assistance provides a critical lifeline for families who are struggling to make ends meet. The good news is, according to the Congressional Budget Office, nutrition programs are saving over \$80 billion more than expected because the economy is getting better and fewer people need temporary help. So we focused on strengthening nutrition assistance the right way—by working on a bipartisan basis.

We improved the integrity of SNAP and created new job-training opportunities and public-private partnerships, while preserving critical food access for American families. We also worked to improve access to healthy foods through SNAP by bolstering fruit and vegetable incentives—what we call in Michigan Double Up Bucks—and reducing paperwork for senior citizens on fixed incomes.

The farm bill also plays an important role in improving the quality of life in

every single small town and rural community, like where I grew up in Clare and where I was this weekend up in the Upper Peninsula.

Access to high-speed internet is one of the top concerns we hear about in rural America. In 2018, having internet access is not a luxury, it is a necessity. High school students need to do their homework and be able to apply for college. Hospitals and health centers need it to connect patients with specialists and use telemedicine and reach those in their homes. Farmers and small business owners count on it to steer their tractors and sell their products and communicate with customers. The farm bill includes new opportunities that will connect communities that need it most.

We are also continuing to create jobs. The strong investments in rural small businesses promote entrepreneurship. Support for renewable energy helps farmers and businesses be more efficient, while also adding installation jobs in rural communities.

Biobased manufacturing creates rural and urban jobs—taking crops like corn and soybeans and turning them into products we use every day, from laundry detergent, to seats in automobiles—yes, you may be sitting on soybeans in your car—to biofuels.

All of these things create opportunities for young people to stay in their hometowns and raise their families. We want children to feel they can stay at home in their small town and have the quality of life they want for themselves and their families and have the opportunity to raise their children there.

Despite facing a tough budget, the farm bill continues to be one of the largest investments in the conservation of our land, water, and Great Lakes, which is so important to us in Michigan. Contrary to the House bill, we made no cuts to the conservation title, which helps our farmers be more productive and more profitable. In fact, by focusing on successful conservation partnerships, we will actually grow funding by leveraging an additional \$1 billion in private investments.

Clean water and healthy wildlife habitat are not only good for our farmers and our environment, they also support hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Again, that is where I grew up. We were outdoors all the time hunting, fishing, enjoying the outdoors. The great news is that this accounts for over 7 million jobs.

There is no doubt that this farm bill is a jobs bill, and, as the chairman said, it is a national security bill. It is a conservation bill. It is a food security bill. It is also a bipartisan bill, with the strong support of the members of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

I am proud to be here with my friend and colleague, the leader of our committee, Chairman ROBERTS, and I urge our colleagues to join us in swiftly passing this bill.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise to discuss, once again, an issue of utmost importance to the people of Louisiana and to the millions of Americans who live in coastal States or in a floodplain. I am talking, of course, about the National Flood Insurance Program, or as we refer to it, the NFIP.

As one knows, in the absence of reauthorizing legislation, this program will expire at the height of hurricane season, and its expiration will leave more than 5 million American families and businesses without insurance and, therefore, in limbo. For the good of our national economy, we simply cannot allow that to happen. That is why I am requesting a vote to extend the program through hurricane season as either an amendment to our farm bill or after recess as a stand-alone bill. My amendment to the farm bill is clean. It would be a 6-month emergency extension that would just maintain the status quo and give flood insurance policyholders peace of mind while allowing us to put together a viable, bipartisan, long-term reform bill.

As one well knows, flooding is the No. 1 natural hazard in this country. It poses an extraordinary risk to both life and property. Of course, families who live near oceans, lakes, rivers, and bays rely on the NFIP to protect their homes and businesses. Yet winter storms and snowmelt also flood thousands of properties every year, and you don't have to live in a coastal State to have a bad rainstorm. In fact, you are twice as likely to have your home flood as you are to have it catch on fire, regardless of where you live. I can assure you that regardless of where you live, if you have 20 or 21 inches of rain over a 2-day period, you are going to flood. I do not care if you live on Pikes Peak.

If you do happen to have your home or business flood, your normal homeowner's policy is not going to help you. You are not covered. That is why Congress created the NFIP, and that is why we need to continue it. Yet we find this program in jeopardy once again. I mean no disrespect, but Congress has repeatedly and consistently mangled the reauthorization of the NFIP.

Despite its being the primary source of flood insurance coverage for millions of American homeowners, Congress allowed the National Flood Insurance Program to expire four times in 2010, for a total of 53 days. Those disruptions had lasting effects on ordinary Americans. In June of 2010, for each day the NFIP had been expired, over 1,400 home sales had been canceled or delayed.

This had injected uncertainty into a fragile housing market. It had disrupted mortgage lending and had sent our local economies into a tailspin. If the NFIP were to lapse this July—and unless we do something, it will lapse on July 31—the National Association of Realtors estimates that more than 40,000 home sale closings will be affected each month.

As it now stands, we have 21 Senate session days until the NFIP expires at 12 midnight on July 31. I regret to say that no meaningful progress has been made with regard to our efforts to connect a reform bill that would continue and improve the NFIP. To make matters worse, our friends in the House of Representatives decoupled the NFIP from spending bills in the omnibus, which has only increased the likelihood that the NFIP will be allowed to expire, which is unacceptable.

Without independent reauthorizing legislation—either stand-alone legislation or an amendment to our farm bill—Congress stands poised to bring our domestic real estate market to a standstill and leave Americans in our coastal States and elsewhere exposed in the middle of hurricane season. We simply cannot afford to let down that many Americans who depend on the National Flood Insurance Program.

Again, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this emergency extension of the NFIP, which I am working on, along with Senator CASSIDY, who is the senior Senator from Louisiana and whose support I greatly appreciate.

We are a month away from a lapse of the NFIP—21 working days in the Senate. That is why I am requesting a vote on a clean, short-term, status quo reauthorization that will get us through hurricane season.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, we are on the farm bill this week in the Senate. I express my gratitude to Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW for bringing us this far.

Interestingly, in a town where differences tend to be along partisan lines and ideological lines, the differences in the farm bill tend to be largely regional as much as anything else, but they have done a good job in trying to bring a fair and equitable bill to the Senate floor. That is reflected by the near unanimous vote in committee for the bill.

The farm bill has always been important. With its being renewed every 5 years, it helps to ensure that Americans and the people who benefit from

American exports around the world enjoy access to the safest, cheapest, most reliable food source on the planet. The farm bill impacts many areas beyond food production. It promotes the conservation of farmland and watersheds. Foreign food aid programs are reauthorized as part of this bill, and we lay down the policy that affects the management of our Nation's forests.

I am especially pleased with this year's farm bill and its impact on my home State and the Presiding Officer's home State of Texas. Among the most noteworthy provisions is protecting seed cotton eligibility for the farm bill safety net. This year's bill also retains and strengthens the Price Loss Coverage Program to help provide Texas agricultural producers with stability through unpredictable weather and natural disasters. Finally, the bill promotes animal health and reauthorizes disease research programs, including a crucial one that will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide research to contain the spread of the cattle fever tick. I doubt many people have heard of the cattle fever tick, but it is a real threat to our herds, our beef herds, and it has the potential to wipe out cattle herds and cause devastating financial losses.

I want to highlight three areas where I do think the bill could stand some improvement—first, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. There is a lot of good done in the bill for farm and agricultural programs, but many people don't know that about 80 percent of the money spent in the farm bill is directed to so-called nutrition programs. So calling this a farm bill is a bit of a misnomer, since only 20 percent of its resources deal with farm and agriculture. So we need to consider targeted ways to ensure that tax dollars used to pay for these nutrition programs are used wisely.

That is why I will support an amendment that expands work requirements for those who receive SNAP benefits. It is not just for work, but for people who are able-bodied who need to train for work or provide community service as condition of qualifying for this welfare benefit.

My second related amendment will authorize a pilot program to encourage nongovernmental partners to help address food insecurity in local communities. While I salute Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW for attempting to ensure the integrity of our nutrition programs, I believe these amendments will further promote the goal we all share.

The last one I will cosponsor with the junior Senator from Kansas, whose leadership I would like to commend, is one that addresses the wildfires we have had the last 2 years and the destruction these natural disasters have provided in farm country.

I see the chairman of the Agriculture Committee on the floor, and I yield to him if he has a question he would like to ask.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, just a comment, and I state to the Presiding Officer that I thank the Senator from Texas for his general support for the farm bill.

The issues Senator CORNYN has mentioned are very important. In the nutrition title, we have addressed deficiencies that he has mentioned. We have 10 States now that have private projects for job training to figure out what really works best. The law currently allows States to have job training and a worker program. Kansas has that law. I am sure Texas probably has the law.

I think we have achieved about as much as we can to at least determine where we are going. The House bill, with all due respect, has \$8 billion in cuts, and then there are questions as to how that is implemented and what agency does that. Agriculture, I don't think, is prepared to really launch into a full program of job training. The one issue the Senator from Texas specifically mentioned that caused me to come down here and interrupt his great speech is, we do have that private part to supplement the Federal situation in the Food Stamp Program. I don't know if we have hit all three areas of concern he has mentioned, but we are pretty darn close.

I appreciate the Senator's interest. We are just trying to get a program that has better integrity, that works better, and is more efficient.

By the way, we deal with that bonus program, where some States—actually, only eight States—were not guilty of this, but a lot of States gamed the system, and we have taken care of that. We have taken a hard look at the nutrition program, but we don't declare the farm program to be a welfare program or try to put it into that kind of a description.

So, basically, I am just saying with the three things the Senator just mentioned, we tried to address all three. Now, perhaps, not to the degree that the distinguished Senator would like, but that is still up for consideration, and I appreciate his comments.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and I appreciate his efforts to try to accommodate the concerns I have raised.

Believe me, I understand this isn't his first rodeo. He has been down this path many times trying to come up with a farm bill that can get passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President of the United States, and that is no easy task.

I would state on the work requirement for qualifying for the so-called nutrition program, I am aware of the fact that since these are Federal dollars, many States, even though they have the authority to impose some work or community service requirement, can waive that rather easily, since they are not spending their

money; they are spending the Federal Government's money. So we are looking for ways to perhaps strengthen that provision.

I hope we will have an opportunity to have a vote on it. My goal is to make sure we pass a farm bill, but I do think it is important that we demonstrate our commitment to protecting the Federal taxpayer and imposing modest work, preparation for work, or community service requirements on able-bodied people.

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. ROBERTS. I thank the Senator for yielding.

We are looking at those provisions, and we are looking at making sure able-bodied people do achieve the goal of going from dependence to independence, more especially in this time of economic recovery, which is really the secret to all of this. The numbers in the Food Stamp Program have decreased dramatically as we have seen our economy improve, but we are taking a look at those waivers. The difference is, in the House bill, we have a situation where if somebody has children 6 and under, it used to be 10 and under, and then on the other side, people who were 50 to now 60 are included—that has raised some dust.

There are several other issues the Senator has mentioned. It is just a matter of degree. We want to provide integrity to that program. We want it to work and have it go to the people who truly need it, and we have tried very hard to accomplish that.

We will study hard the good recommendations the Senator has mentioned, and we will do our best.

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the chairman's comments, and I have confidence in him and his ability to manage this bill successfully across the floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the important legislation before us, and that is

the 2018 farm bill. This is critical legislation for Nebraskans and for all Americans. It will provide the certainty and predictability agriculture producers need to do their job of delivering abundant, high-quality, nutritious food to our Nation.

My husband, Bruce, and I have a family ranch in the Sandhills of Nebraska. That is our home. That is where we live, and that is where we work. I know firsthand that being a farmer or rancher is more than just a job. It is a way of life, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is one of life's most noble callings to care for the land and God's creatures, to be stewards of our natural resources, and to feed the world.

As a State senator of the Nebraska legislature and now as a U.S. Senator, commonsense agriculture policy has been a top priority for me. This year, I was honored to have the opportunity to join the Senate Ag Committee, where I am the voice for Nebraska agriculture as we work on this vital legislation for our State.

I want to thank Chairman ROBERTS for welcoming me to the committee and for his excellent work on this bill. I also want to thank him for making a trip to the "good life" this past May. Together, we held a roundtable at the Nebraska State fairgrounds in Grand Island and toured a soybean processing plant in Hastings. During these visits, we heard feedback and input from Nebraska ag producers that we brought back to Washington as the committee crafted this bill.

Production agriculture is the economic engine of Nebraska. Across our State, there are more than 47,000 farms and ranches. From the panhandle to Central Nebraska, to the city streets of Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraskans understand the monumental role of agriculture as our State's No. 1 industry. One in four Nebraska jobs is tied to agriculture, but we all know there is a lot of anxiety in farm country today.

Current net farm income is down by over 50 percent compared to 5 years ago when we passed the last farm bill. While uncertainty surrounds international trade and biofuels policy, we are looking at experiencing depressed commodity prices and tight margins. Since the beginning of June, Nebraska cash corn prices are down roughly 11 percent. Cash soybean prices are down 14 percent. This has resulted in over \$1 billion in potential lost receipts to corn and soybean producers. Farmers and ranchers are worried.

For many years, I traveled the State of Nebraska to meet with and listen carefully to folks about their ideas to address the issues they face. I hosted several ag roundtables with local producers, Nebraska stakeholders, government officials, and agriculture industry experts about how we can boost our rural economies.

Many of our discussions explore the relationship between the "internet of things" and agriculture. A key point that has been consistently made is the

need for high-speed internet connectivity on farms and ranches. I hold a number of these roundtables every year, and it is always good to hear straight from producers about these important issues. I also bring leaders in our government to Nebraska so that they can develop a better understanding of our State and familiarize themselves with the challenges producers deal with on a daily basis.

On a snowy day in May last year, I welcomed the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, to our family ranch. The Secretary joined me in hosting a roundtable discussion with more than 60 of our neighbors and our friends. He heard about our suggestions on trade, marketing our products, broadband deployment, and other concerns we as ag producers have.

Working together with my colleagues here in the Senate, we have had some great successes rolling back Federal regulations that have hurt farmers and ranchers. For example, Congress worked with the administration to halt the harmful waters of the United States rule, which would have expanded the Federal Government's jurisdiction over my State's water resources.

Earlier this year, as a part of the government spending bill, Congress passed and the President signed into law a permanent fix, which I championed. It ensures that farmers and ranchers are not treated like superfund sites under those EPA regulations. Additionally, we made some progress in eliminating regulations meant for oil refineries that were unreasonably affecting producers who use on-farm fuel storage tanks.

Leading up to the 2018 farm bill, I was pleased to work alongside the USDA and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to lift a 13-year ban on U.S. beef shipments to Israel. I have also been outspoken about the value of the South Korean market to Nebraska's high-quality agriculture products. I advocated for our country to stay in the KORUS Free Trade Agreement, and I visited with both the U.S. administration officials and South Korean officials to stress the importance of the trade relationship between our two countries.

I was pleased to see that the administration made a good trade deal with South Korea. This is a step in the right direction. It will expand opportunities for our producers and for the State of Nebraska.

These were big wins for our producers, but we can, we should, and we must provide the predictability our producers need, especially during these tough times. That means passing the farm bill and enacting it into law.

Traveling around our State, a common theme that I hear is the continued need for a strong farm safety net that upholds the integrity of the crop insurance program. This is a critical risk management tool that works for farmers. From the very beginning, I have