

I rise to urge bipartisan support for a bipartisan priority, relief for family farmers. Passing H.R. 2336 will make our Nation's bankruptcy laws for farmers reflective of today's economy and better represent the experiences of our Nation's farmers.

I am proud to represent New York's 19th Congressional District, which stretches nearly 8,000 square miles, is made up of 11 counties, and includes the beautiful Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains.

New York 19 is the eighth most rural district in the country, and the third most rural represented by a Democrat. It is also home to nearly 5,000 farms and over 8,000 farm operators.

The last USDA Ag Census found that 96 percent of the farms in my district are family owned. These family-owned farms, both in New York 19, and across the country, are facing alarming rates of foreclosure during this down farm economy.

This is the fifth year on record of declining net farm income. Prices are low, inputs are high, and current trade policies make the future for farms unknown. 2018 marked the fourth consecutive year of rising bankruptcy rates as a proportion of the farm population.

This farm economy is exacerbated by an outdated bankruptcy filing cap that leaves farmers without options to restructure or repay their debt. Chapter 12 was created specifically to provide repayment flexibility and reorganizational advantages for family farms during poor economic times.

Unfortunately, this outdated debt cap has rendered chapter 12 an inaccessible tool for thousands of farm families.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers tell the story here. According to the National Farm Bureau, last year just 498 farms filed for chapter 12 bankruptcy. By comparison, 766,000 consumers filed under chapters 7 and 13.

Over the last 10 years, chapter 7 and chapter 13 have seen 10 million total filings, compared to just 5,000 Chapter 12 filings.

Mr. Speaker, we must do more.

The Family Farmer Relief Act solution is simple. My one-sentence bill would adjust the debt cap to align with today's land values and the cost of doing business for today's farmers. Our legislation modifies chapter 12 bankruptcy rules to raise the debt cap for eligibility to \$10 million.

This adjustment will provide farmers additional options to manage the current farm economy and allows farmers to retain assets and remain operational. Allowing farmers increased flexibility is critical to the health and wellness of our family farmers and the Upstate economy at large.

I thank House leadership for bringing this important bill to the floor, and also Subcommittee Chairman CICILLINE for his support and leadership on the Judiciary Committee.

In addition, I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for his ongoing leadership on this issue in the Senate.

And lastly, I want to thank my bipartisan House colead, Judiciary Subcommittee Ranking Member JIM SEN-SEN BRENNER, House Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON, and Representatives TJ COX, KELLY ARMSTRONG, and DUSTY JOHNSON.

I look forward to seeing this bill move forward so we can give our farmers and growers the support and flexibility they need in these hard times.

Mr. SEN-SEN BRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2336 is a commonsense, bipartisan solution. I applaud the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) for his leadership on this bill to help our Nation's family-owned farms.

This legislation is supported by the nonpartisan American Bankruptcy Institute, as well as the American College of Bankruptcy. It currently has more than 27 bipartisan cosponsors, including our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SEN-SEN BRENNER).

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 2336.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2336, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3877) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 284, nays 149, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 511]

YEAS—284

Adams	Blunt	Rochester	Cartwright	Abraham	Bucshon	DesJarlais
Aderholt	Bonamici	Case	Casten (IL)	Allen	Budd	Duffy
Aguilar	Bost	Boyle, Brendan	Castor (FL)	Amash	Burchett	Duncan
Allred	F.		Castro (TX)	Amodei	Burgess	Emmer
Axne	Brady	Cheney	Armstrong	Baird	Byrne	Estes
Babin	Brooks (IN)	Chu, Judy	Arrington	Chabot	Carter (GA)	Flores
Bacon	Brown (MD)	Cicilline	Balderson	Balderson	Carter (GA)	Foxx (NC)
Barragán	Brownley (CA)	Cisneros	Banks	Cline	Cloud	Fulcher
Bass	Bustos	Clark (MA)	Barr	Comer	Cloud	Gaetz
Beatty	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)	Biggs	Cooper	Comer	Gallagher
Bera	Carbajal	Cleaver	Blumenauer	Brindisi	Crenshaw	Gianforte
Bergman	Calvert	Clay	Brooks (AL)	Crawford	Cunningham	Gohmert
Beyer	Cárdenas	Clyburn	Buchanan	Curtis	Cunningham	Gonzalez (OH)
Bilirakis	Carson (IN)	Cohen	Buck	Davidson (OH)	Gooden	Gooden
Bishop (GA)	Carter (TX)	Cole			Gaspar	Gaspar
Bishop (UT)						

