

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Thank you for your continued leadership through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that continues to impact agricultural producers and the entire commodity supply value chain due to the necessary business shutdowns. We believe the next COVID relief bill should include provisions to address the economic losses not only for cotton farmers, but specifically provide critical relief for cotton marketing businesses and U.S. textile manufacturing plants.

The U.S. cotton industry exports 15 to 17 million bales annually, with approximately 8 million bales moving through port facilities in California, primarily the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach. Other key ports for cotton include Savannah, Houston/Galveston, Charleston, Laredo, and Norfolk. Since January, the slowdown in global cotton demand has caused the cancellation of \$800 million in cotton exports. Providing temporary emergency assistance to U.S. cotton marketers and exporters will help restore these export activities and the jobs and economic activity that benefit the local economies of these regions.

The U.S. textile industry has experienced declines of up to 90% in orders, representing losses between \$200 and \$300 million per month since April. Maintaining a stable cotton supply chain and the capacity to produce cotton textile products in the U.S. is a necessity as domestic textile manufacturers supply the inputs for personal protective equipment (PPE) and a range of medical textile products. In order to re-shore critical manufacturing capabilities to secure a domestic supply chain for PPE, direct support is needed now for the U.S. cotton and textile supply chain.

We respectfully ask that you work with us and Chairman Peterson to ensure this critical, narrowly targeted assistance is included in the next COVID relief package. We stand ready to provide additional details regarding the specific policy needs to address the ongoing economic losses.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership.

Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

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Alma S. Adams, Ph. D
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Jimmy Panetta
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