

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2023

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1010 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott:

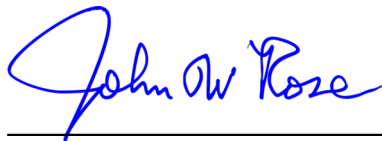
As the Committee on Agriculture begins work on the next Farm Bill we want to bring to your attention the importance of extending the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund, the Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, and the Wool Research and Promotion Program. These programs help promote the American Pima cotton, wool, textile and apparel manufacturing industries and allow these American industries to compete against foreign producers on a more level playing field. They also maintain essential domestic capabilities in a highly globalized supply chain, which has significant implications for national security and health care preparedness.

For many years these programs helped to protect American jobs from unfair trade policies that harmed all levels of the production chain for certain wool and cotton products. The programs respond to various tariff and trade policy anomalies that negatively affect these important agricultural and industrial sectors, which supply tens of thousands of U.S. jobs. These programs previously administered by different agencies, were consolidated to USDA to administer in the Agriculture Act of 2014 and subsequently extended by sections 12602, 12603 and 12604 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. They represent a collaborative effort of growers, producers and manufacturers to work together to help regain market share lost to unfair trade policies.

The pandemic dramatically reduced consumer demand for these types of clothing, textiles, and fibers supported by these programs. Many of the manufacturers, mainly small and medium-sized businesses, shifted to the production of emergency personal protective equipment (PPE) – often at a loss – to help address critical shortages and fill gaps in the medical supply chain. Still, a number of these businesses did not survive the pandemic and many of those that remain continue to struggle to avoid bankruptcy.

Moreover, China, with its state-sponsored subsidies and often illegal labor practices, continues to dominate global markets for these products. Without uninterrupted continuation of these programs, the United States will almost certainly lose, rather than retain and expand, key components of the domestic supply chain for PPE and the domestic customer base for cotton and wool fibers, yarns and fabrics. American producers of raw Pima cotton and wool will also suffer. We are not seeking any enhancements to these important programs, but instead urge you to extend each, as is, as part of the next Farm Bill.

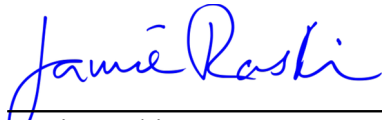
Sincerely,



John Rose
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



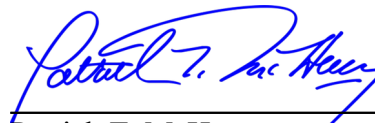
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



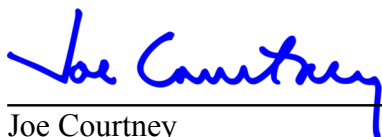
Patrick T. McHenry
Member of Congress



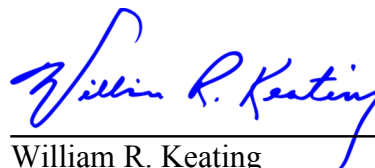
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress