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May 20, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott:

The National Cotton Council strongly supports the Chairman’s mark of the Farm Bill and urges the House Committee on Agriculture to report this legislation to the full House of Representatives by a strong bipartisan vote.

Cotton farmers across the country are struggling under enormous pressures. Labor, land, and equipment costs are much higher than they were just a few years ago. Meanwhile, interest rates remain elevated at a level not seen in decades. Cotton prices are below costs of production as U.S. cotton demand struggles in the face of increased competition from Brazilian and Australian cotton, as well as from the continued onslaught of Chinese polyester production. These financial pressures, along with the usual challenges of unpredictable weather, have left many of our producers struggling to hold on. Unless they receive relief, *some of these producers will no longer be farming by this time next year.*

The Chairman’s mark offers a lifeline to our farmers, and one that could not come soon enough. Additionally, by increasing the competitiveness of the United States cotton industry, the bill addresses the needs of all segments throughout the marketing chain, from growers through to textile mills.

While the NCC applauds many provisions of the Chairman’s mark, the following items are especially worth highlighting:

- The increase in the statutory reference price for seed cotton to 42 cents per pound;
- The enhancement of premium support for the Supplemental Coverage Option to 80 percent, along with a boost to the top coverage level to 90 percent;
- The raising of the Marketing Assistance Loan rate to 55 cents, coupled with changes to the program to improve cotton’s competitiveness and flow;
- The raising of the Pima cotton loan rate to one dollar per pound, along with the addition of marketing loan repayment provisions;
- The increase in the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills rate to five cents per pound; and
- The doubling of funding for the Market Access Program/Foreign Market Development

Taken together, these provisions will help to preserve our nation's fiber security during these challenging times.

While we are all aware that Committee action is a first step – not a final one – in a longer Farm Bill process, we must begin moving forward now. Please know that in the coming days and weeks, the National Cotton Council stands ready to assist your efforts in whatever we can.

Sincerely,



Joe Nicosia  
Chairman  
National Cotton Council

CC:

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
The Honorable Austin Scott  
The Honorable Rick Crawford  
The Honorable Scott DesJarlais  
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa  
The Honorable David Rouzer  
The Honorable Trent Kelly  
The Honorable Don Bacon  
The Honorable Mike Bost  
The Honorable Dusty Johnson  
The Honorable Jim Baird  
The Honorable Tracey Mann  
The Honorable Randy Feenstra  
The Honorable Mary Miller  
The Honorable Barry Moore  
The Honorable Kat Cammack  
The Honorable Brad Finstad  
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The Honorable Ronny Jackson  
The Honorable Marc Molinaro  
The Honorable Monica De La Cruz  
The Honorable Nick Langworthy  
The Honorable John Duarte  
The Honorable Zach Nunn  
The Honorable Mark Alford  
The Honorable Derrick Van Orden  
The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
The Honorable Max Miller

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The Honorable Jim McGovern  
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The Honorable Jahana Hayes  
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The Honorable Elissa Slotkin  
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The Honorable Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
The Honorable Don Davis  
The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
The Honorable Nikki Budzinski  
The Honorable Eric Sorensen  
The Honorable Gabe Vasquez  
The Honorable Jasmine Crockett  
The Honorable Jonathan Jackson  
The Honorable Greg Casar  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
The Honorable Angie Craig  
The Honorable Darren Soto  
The Honorable Sanford Bishop