

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 04, 2021

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your commitment to supporting American families and agricultural producers throughout their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to assist farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), we respectfully request that the Department expedite the rulemaking process to administer direct payments to contract chicken growers. We also encourage you to ensure that adequate funding is available for USDA to deliver these payments in full.

COVID-19 has severely affected the bottom lines of agricultural producers across the country, including many chicken growers in our home states. On December 21, 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which included additional resources for USDA to continue supporting American farmers. The bill also included funding for USDA to provide direct payments for contract chicken growers who previously had been excluded from assistance provided by the CFAP. We are concerned by the fact that these chicken growers still have not received federal assistance since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that it is challenging to determine how losses and payments should be calculated fairly, given variations in the timing of when growers receive and finish raising their flocks. Still, we encourage you to proceed swiftly with making fair payments.

We appreciate USDA's commitment to administering fair payments to contract chicken growers and your efforts to coordinate with industry stakeholders. Thank you for considering our request to expedite this process. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support our nation's farmers.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



Christopher A Coons  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



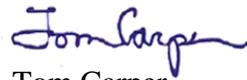
John Boozman  
United States Senator



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Ben Cardin  
United States Senator



Tom Carper  
United States Senator

/s/ Bob Casey

Bob Casey  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



Jim Inhofe  
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Mark Warner  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Andrew Clyde  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress



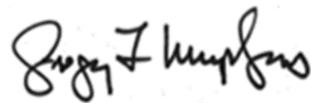
Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



George F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress