

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

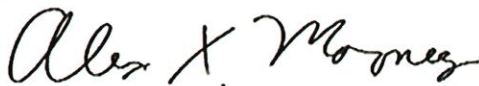
Today, we write in strong opposition to potential increases in crop reference prices that some Members of the House and Senate have been pressing to see included in Title I of the new Farm Bill.

While our farmers face unique risks, our farm safety net already provides significant tools to help our farmers manage the ups and downs of agriculture, including government-subsidized crop insurance and other subsidies designed to offset low prices. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided direct support to farmers totaling more than \$120 billion over the last five years, and an increase in reference prices would drastically increase that amount.

At a time when we must be taking steps to reduce federal spending, we oppose any effort to increase spending on farm subsidies through reference price increases beyond the 2018 Farm Bill status quo, and we ask that you maintain existing reference price limits in the next Farm Bill. While inflation has increased the cost of farming, farm businesses are expected to earn more than \$140 billion in net farm income in 2023, or the second highest level of net farm income ever recorded by the USDA.

Now is not the time to increase federal spending through additional reference price increases. We promised the American people we would reduce, not increase, our runaway federal spending, and we must stand strong against increases in spending that only drive inflation up further at a time when the country's finances are in peril.

Sincerely,



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Carol Miller
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress