

June 9, 2020

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations thank you and your staff for the countless hours of work and dedication you are collectively contributing to address the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. The farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, processors, package suppliers and agricultural product marketers that make up our memberships are dedicated to providing the safe, abundant and affordable food, fiber and feed required to ensure our country stays healthy and fed.

We respectfully request you to join Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) in sponsoring the FARM to TABLE Act that assists our nation's agricultural suppliers, producers, and transporters.

Federal law currently provides an exemption from federal hours of service rules for the transportation of agricultural commodities within a 150 air-mile radius from the source of the commodities, during planting and harvesting periods, as determined by the State.

While the majority of states have year-round planting and harvesting periods, allowing for a consistent application of the exemption, 15 states have chosen to narrowly define their planting and harvesting seasons. These varying regulations create confusion as to what rules a driver is operating under at any given time. Additionally, the current narrow definitions unnecessarily inhibit industries, such as dairy, livestock and agricultural inputs, which transport their supplies year-round.

The FARM to TABLE Act which will simplify the exemption for agricultural commodities by eliminating the state by state planting and harvesting period definition and allowing the exemption to apply year-round. Additionally, the bill provides greater transparency by defining an "agricultural commodity" with respect to the federal hours of service rules exemptions. The definition in this legislation would provide clarity for truck drivers and is consistent with input proposed to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration by over 100 agricultural and trucking organizations last fall.

As COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated, a reliable food and fiber supply chain is critically important to meeting the needs of families across the nation. This commonsense legislation will provide relief to the agricultural producers and their drivers who have worked tirelessly to feed America during this crisis.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request to co-sponsor the FARM to TABLE Act. If you have questions or would like to register your support for this bill, please contact Libby Callaway in Rep. Joyce's office at [Libby.Callaway@mail.house.gov](mailto:Libby.Callaway@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
California Grain and Feed Association  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Hardwood Federation  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
North American Millers' Association  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
South Texans' Property Rights Association  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance  
Tennessee Feed and Grain Association  
Texas Corn Producers Association  
Texas Deer Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Texas Irrigation Council  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The National Grange  
United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association