

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Agriculture Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

Thank you for your efforts to reauthorize the Grain Standards Act (USGSA), which sets the framework for the functioning of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service. With the impending expiration of the USGSA at the end of September, it is critically important that Congress finalize the reauthorization process. We believe the bill under consideration will maintain confidence in our inspection system, which is a key element of our success in export markets.

The United States' grain inspection system provides certainty to our foreign customers that all U.S. grains and oilseeds have been inspected and certified by an independent agency and provides great value to U.S. commodities, thereby enhancing our competitiveness in the world market. This certainty and reliability have helped grow export markets for U.S. commodities and serve as a significant advantage for U.S. products versus commodities from other origins.

A properly functioning grain inspection system is critical, and we urge Congress to reauthorize the Grain Standards Act this year. Despite the significant impacts of tariffs on exports, U.S. commodities have maintained some competitiveness in the international market in part thanks to the premium international buyers place on the U.S. grain inspection system. Given the current uncertainty in trade agreements and many of the bearish factors working against U.S. farmers, it is critical we maintain one of our key advantages. Our customers, foreign and domestic, see tremendous value in our grain inspection system, and reauthorization of the Grain Standards Act will ensure this value continues for U.S. grain exports.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your work to move forward with the reauthorization process and to craft a bipartisan bill that can be supported by both chambers of Congress. We hope that Congress will be able to act quickly on this bill to ensure no lapse in authorization.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
U.S. Canola Association

CC: Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee