

October 1, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned organizations urge Congress to quickly pass a measure to reopen the federal government.

A government shutdown affects all American families and has significant consequences on farmers, ranchers, growers and all who work to grow, process, deliver and prepare the food our nation relies on. Currently, the agriculture community is weathering an economic storm; many growers are facing crop prices near record lows while production expenses continue to increase.

The latest USDA Census of Agriculture revealed a loss of 141,000 farms between 2017 and 2022—and 20,000 more farms have been lost since then. A government shutdown adds additional uncertainty, disrupts critical services, delays payments and places more burden on rural communities already feeling significant stress.

We appreciate your leadership and urge both chambers and both parties to work together to end the government shutdown.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association  
CropLife America  
Farm Credit Council  
International Fresh Produce Association  
Meat Institute  
National Association of Conservation Districts

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
The Fertilizer Institute  
USA Rice

cc:

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee