



December 18, 2024

Greetings,

As the president of the National Corn Growers Association, I am reaching out to ask your office to support the Further Continuing Appropriations and Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025, which includes promising provisions for corn growers across the nation. These provisions include **year-round and permanent access to E15 sales, critical economic and disaster assistance for farmers**, and an **extension of the farm bill**.

The state of the farm economy is grim. The USDA forecasts real net cash farm income for 2024 down 28.7% from 2022. Our economist, Krista Swanson, reports this is the largest two-year percent decline in nearly 50 years. **Corn farmers can't withstand negative returns for an extended period.** And the outlook for 2025 is even worse. Not only is 2025 shaping up to be the third consecutive year of losses for corn growers, but forecast returns drop even further, to the lowest level since 2000.

Corn growers – especially those hit by drought, hurricanes, and other natural disasters – are in serious need of support. While we are relieved to see the farm bill extension tacked on to the continuing resolution, our growers have dealt with legislative uncertainty for far too long. Corn growers need the stabilizing support offered in this continuing resolution.

The market opportunity provided by allowing year-round E15 sales cannot be understated: **Standardizing year-round E15 will result in an increase in corn demand of about 2.3 billion bushels per year.** Considering that about one-third of corn produced in the U.S. is used for ethanol production, this demand creation will result in an impressive improvement in profitability for operations across the nation. Not to mention, the support from economic and disaster relief will be critical in helping corn growers recover devastating losses from the past year – and for some, continue to stay in business.

This legislative package is very good news for corn growers – and in the midst of turmoil in the agriculture economy – **we need good news.** On behalf of corn growers across the nation, please throw your support behind this package; it will provide a boost to the U.S. corn industry that will have rippling effects across rural America.

Don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Hartman, Jr.
President
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