NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

August 3, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

As the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry approaches the legislative markup for the Agricultural Act of 2026, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) appreciates your work to support America's farmers, rural communities, and consumers. Corn growers support the consideration and advancement of the Agricultural Act this week.

NCGA represents 36,000 dues paying members and the interests of the broader community of 500,000 U.S. corn farmers. As a grassroots-led association, grower leaders representing NCGA and affiliated state associations have spent several years providing Congress formal input with recommendations for updating farm bill policies and programs. Corn growers from across the country have participated in listening sessions, field hearings, Congressional testimony, and meetings with their Senators to call for improvements to make USDA programs more effective, efficient, and responsive.

Corn growers have continued to call for the bipartisan development and passage of a farm bill "2.0" this Congress. Many of the NCGA endorsed farm bill marker bills and policy recommendations are reflected in this proposed legislation, and they would improve existing programs for corn growers and rural America.

This letter highlights specific policy details that are of interest or importance to our grower members. Corn growers recognize there are limited legislative days remaining in this Congress for the farm bill and E15 to pass and be signed into law. With these views considered, NCGA urges the Committee to advance the farm bill this week ahead of the planned August recess.

Year-Round E15

NCGA continues to encourage Congress to act immediately to pass pending legislation that would provide consumers nationwide with year-round access to fuel with 15% ethanol blends (E15). This deregulatory action will help corn growers and the rural economy during this difficult time and will also address issues around affordability by lowering prices at the pump. NCGA is extremely grateful that year-round E15 is included in the Agricultural Act.

Farm Bill "2.0"

NCGA's values and areas of emphasis for the farm bill are summarized by these key principles: championing initiatives important to rural America; supporting voluntary conservation programs; bolstering U.S. international market development efforts; strengthening the producer safety net and protecting federal crop insurance.

While several important and longstanding farm bill priorities for corn growers, including key investments in commodity and trade promotion programs, were addressed primarily through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) in 2025, corn growers recognize that the legislation was passed via the budget reconciliation process, which limited the scope of policy provisions.

Championing initiatives important to rural America

The farm bill contains many programs and policies important to corn growers and broader constituencies across rural America, including provisions in the credit, rural development, research, energy, and miscellaneous titles.

Access to credit and rural development programs is important for corn growers to enhance their operations and innovate with precision agriculture tools. NCGA supports sections 5201 and 5202 that update loan limits for farm ownership loans and guaranteed operating loans. Corn growers also support provisions in Section 12610 that expand access and promote the adoption of precision agriculture technology. This will help to ease the financial burden of adopting precision agriculture practices.

Corn growers are supportive of the reauthorization of several key research priorities through 2031 including Section 7125 the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA), Section 7207 the Agriculture Genome to Phenome Initiative, and Section 7412 the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

Increased access and innovation to biofuels, bioproducts, and related feedstocks remain a top priority for corn growers. NCGA supports clearly defining sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) as an advanced biofuel as seen in Section 9001 and the strategy to encourage the production of SAF in Section 9011. Additionally, corn growers support reauthorizing USDA's BioPreferred program through Section 9002, which expands domestic manufacturing of renewable biobased products. Improvements to Biorefinery Assistance in Section 9003 provide the U.S. with the tools to lead in research, development, and manufacturing of bioproducts.

Predictable and reliable access to critical crop protection tools is important to corn growers. NCGA supports uniformity of pesticide labeling requirements and the Supreme Court's ruling that EPA's science-based labeling decisions carry national force under FIFRA. NCGA would oppose any proposed amendments to reverse the Court's decision in the *Monsanto Company v. Durnell* case.

Corn growers have been raising concern about rising input costs and have offered recommendations to increase transparency, competition, and fairness in the fertilizer market. NCGA supports the inclusion of the three provisions within the fertilizer subtitle including Section 12301, which will codify the full-time Crop Input Economist within the USDA office of chief economist, Section 12302, requiring USDA to conduct and publish a report on the U.S. fertilizer industry, and Section 12303, which requires USDA to collect and publish data on fertilizer prices from manufacturers.

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Supporting voluntary conservation programs
Corn growers are committed to implementing successful conservation practices on their farms. NCGA supports investments into USDA working lands conservation programs, which help corn growers continue to be good stewards of the land and play an important role in advancing the adoption of conservation practices.

NCGA supports the provisions in Sections 2403 and 2404 which would expedite the development of innovative conservation practices ensuring corn farmers have timely access to the latest, proven technologies and practices. The Agricultural Act also improves the delivery of technical assistance for producers.

Bolstering U.S. international market development efforts
Dynamic USDA trade programs boost U.S. agricultural exports, are vital to the prosperity of U.S. agriculture and related business, increase the value of agriculture exports, and provide a high value of return on the investments. NCGA strongly supported the doubling of mandatory funding for USDA trade promotion programs in the OBBBA. Corn growers support the funding allocations for the existing Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program found in Section 3204 and appreciate the efforts made to ensure that the programs are efficient and effective.

Strengthening the producer safety net and protecting federal crop insurance
In the Agricultural Act, corn growers support Section 1105 that clarifies eligibility for the storage facility loan program to include propane and fertilizer storage that is primarily used for agricultural production.

The OBBBA had multiple provisions to modify the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) commodity programs, including several recommendations from NCGA. Base acres underpin the eligibility for these commodity programs. While USDA is currently implementing a one-time voluntary opportunity to add 30 million new base acres, NCGA has concerns that the previous legislation did not provide enough new base acres nationwide, which may lead to a pro-rated allocation of these base acres. NCGA continues to advocate for meaningful reforms and updates to existing base acres to ensure that commodity program eligibility and payments more accurately reflect growers' recent planting history.

With crop insurance consistently ranked as a top farm bill program and priority for corn growers, NCGA will continue to oppose efforts to cut crop insurance programs or restrict producer accessibility to risk management tools.

Challenges in the farm economy require additional Congressional action
Along with the farm bill, NCGA urges the U.S. Senate to prioritize consideration and passage of the budget reconciliation legislation that would provide additional and much needed short-term assistance for agriculture. Swift consideration and passage of the budget resolution will ensure critical assistance provides relief for America's farmers as soon as possible.

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This year is expected to be the fourth consecutive year of net income losses for corn growers with an expected loss of nearly $150 per acre and USDA has proven that the Department can deliver authorized assistance timely and accurately.

Corn growers appreciate the leadership of Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and all Members of the Committee for their service to agriculture and rural America.

As you prepare for the business meeting to markup the Agricultural Act of 2026, NCGA supports the advancement of the legislation this week. NCGA and affiliated state associations will help defend against harmful amendments and will continue to work with Senators for additional policy enhancements. Corn growers would like to see the Agricultural Act, including year-round E15, move forward in a bipartisan manner and for the farm bill to be signed into law this year.

Sincerely,

Jed Bower
President
National Corn Growers Association

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry