



Working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities.

February 25, 2026

Congressman Thompson
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

As the united voice of nearly 60,000 Ohio farm families and rural community members, we urge you to swiftly advance a new, modernized farm bill. We appreciated the three extensions of the 2018 farm bill, the economic assistance provided and certainty delivered through One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Still, outdated farm programs and unresolved challenges remain and must be addressed to ensure Ohio farmers stay in business.

Ohio agriculture is facing a generational storm of challenges with skyrocketing input costs, nearly record-low crop prices, harsh weather conditions and continued trade disputes. These pressures have left many farm families operating on razor-thin margins or making the difficult decision to shutter the family farm altogether. Ohio farmers need a farm policy that reflects today's economic realities and allows them to plan, invest and continue to grow for generations to come.

While the OBBBA provided important improvements to crop protection programs, tax provisions and trade investment, additional modernization and investment is necessary to provide long-term certainty to Ohio's No.1 industry. We need a strong farm bill that addresses California's Proposition 12, and provides clear interstate commerce protections, especially as we navigate ongoing trade disputes and seek expanded domestic markets. Farmers also need strengthened access to credit and greater investment in conservation and agricultural research. These tools and programs help manage farm risk, improve productivity, bolster innovation and protect our natural resources.

Ohio has lost more than 1 million acres of vital farmland over the past 20 years, and as the state continues to be a hotspot for development, and farmers face a long list of challenges, we must ensure federal legislation supports our agricultural businesses, strengthens rural communities and safeguards the food and fuel supply that serves all 12 million Ohioans.

We appreciate the leadership of Chairman G.T. Thompson and the House Agriculture Committee in advancing a draft of a new farm bill that addresses many of the challenges our farmers face. We now urge you to help move this legislation across the finish line swiftly so farmers can head into planting season and beyond with clarity and confidence.

Sincerely,

J. William Patterson
President, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Geauga County farmer