

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2026

Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson
House Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Speaker Johnson,

As Members of Congress representing the specialty crop growers who help feed communities across the nation, we were pleased to see the White House’s recent request for \$10 billion in temporary economic assistance for row and specialty crops planted in crop year 2026. As Congress and the administration determine how these funds will be allocated, we respectfully request that at least \$5 billion of aid be reserved for specialty crop producers.

Last year, President Trump and USDA announced a \$12 billion one-time Farmer Bridge Payment to provide immediate relief to American farmers facing ongoing market disruptions and hardship. While specialty crop producers welcomed this assistance, only \$1.625 billion of the total package was ultimately allocated to specialty crops, despite the sector representing over 350 commodities across 220,000 farms¹ in all 50 states².

In addition to receiving a disproportionately small share of Farmer Bridge Assistance funding, specialty crop growers lack access to the same safety-net programs available to many traditional commodity producers. In 2022, it was reported that only 15% of specialty crop farms were insured, compared to 71% of grain farms³. This is due in part to the diversity of specialty crops and the limited availability of tailored insurance products. As a result, specialty crop producers lag behind their counterparts in crop insurance coverage, leaving many operations exposed to market disruptions, weather-related losses, and rising production costs. For many, ad hoc disaster or economic assistance from the federal government is the only coverage.

¹ Daniel Munch, *Specialty Crops Need Economic Aid: Case Studies (Almonds, Apples, Blueberries, Lettuce, Potatoes and Strawberries)*, Am. Farm Bureau Fed.: Market Intel (June 16, 2022), fb.org.

² Carrie Litkowski & Jonathan Law, *2022 Census of Agriculture: Most U.S. counties with high concentration of specialty crop farms are located along coasts*, U.S. Dep’t of Agric., Econ. Rsch. Serv.: Charts of Note (Apr. 30, 2024), usda.gov.

³ *Fair Share: Understanding Consistent Premiums in Federal Crop Insurance*, Farm & Country Ins.: Blog (2026), <https://nyfarmininsurance.com/post/is-federal-crop-insurance-same-premium-at-all-agents/>.

Specialty crop production relies heavily on manual harvesting and seasonal labor availability. Their products are highly perishable and require experienced care, handling, and timely transportation. These factors make specialty crop producers uniquely vulnerable to economic, disaster, and logistical disruptions, reinforcing the need for workable economic assistance.

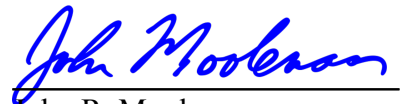
Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops are among the highest-value agricultural products in the United States and support thousands of growers, packers, processors, and rural jobs across the country. Families rely on a consistent and affordable supply of nutritious food that also directly supplements the administration's Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda.

Reserving \$5 billion for specialty crop growers in the White House's farmer aid assistance request means stability for domestic supply chains, greater certainty for growers navigating input and labor costs, and continued food security for American families. Once funding is secured, we look forward to working alongside the administration to ensure that the aid is efficiently distributed, and with proven models that have already demonstrated success in delivering specialty crop assistance.

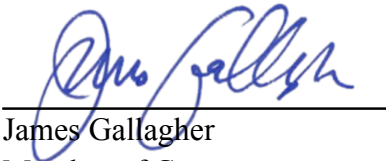
Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David G. Valadao, consisting of stylized, flowing letters.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of John R. Moolenaar, featuring a clear, legible cursive style.

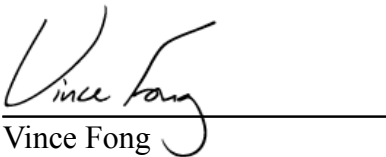
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of James Gallagher, with a distinctive loop at the end.

James Gallagher
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Darrell Issa, showing a series of connected loops.

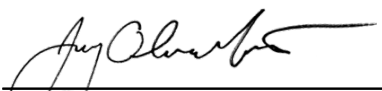
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Vince Fong, with a simple, direct cursive style.

Vince Fong
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Dan Newhouse, featuring a prominent 'D' and a clear cursive script.

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress



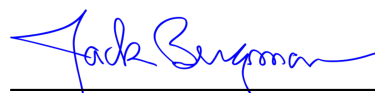
Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



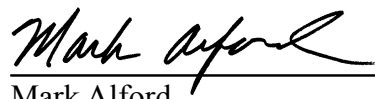
Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



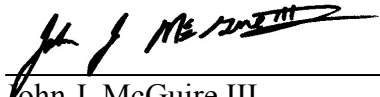
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress