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July 20, 2018

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
United States House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

As a House conference committee leader for the Farm Bill to resolve differences between H.R. 2 and S. 3042, we respectfully ask that you work with conferees on a final bill that includes the following Senate passed provisions that we believe will make for a better bill that serves our members and stakeholders:

TITLE III

Sec. 3301. Food for Progress Act of 1985. *This section provides mandatory funding which will reduce reliance on monetization to fund the program.*

TITLE VI

Sec. 6111. Rural Cooperative Development Grants. *This section requires that cooperative research program agreements include research and analysis from the Economic Census, a provision mentioned on p. 224 of the House Report accompanying H.R. 2.*

Sec. 6124. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program. *This section adds the bipartisan Rural Jobs and Investment Act, S. 3034, which in part creates rural jobs accelerator partnerships that may include rural cooperative organizations.*

TITLE XII

Sec. 12406. Undersecretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. *This section makes changes to the Reorganization Act of 1994 requiring the USDA to have an Under Secretary for Rural Development.*

We appreciate the work in both chambers to reauthorize or enhance the Rural Energy Savings Program, Food for Peace, and the Farmer to Farmer Program. These remain nearly identical in both bills and we support them in the final bill.

Sincerely,



Doug O'Brien
President and CEO

NCBA CLUSA continues to be the intersection for the cooperative sectors in the U.S., promoting cross-sector collaboration, and promoting and protecting cooperative businesses and principles. Internationally, we provide innovative, market-based cooperative business solutions to smallholder farmers, youth, women, and local organizations and communities, working with local and national counterparts to empower individuals and families to achieve economic security and a better, longer and healthier quality of life.