

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2024

The Honorable Russ Goodman
301-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Senator Goodman,

Thank you for contacting me to share your priorities for the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill and for your service to our great state.

As you know, agriculture is Georgia's number one industry. I understand the critical role our state's producers play in sustaining our thriving agriculture industry, supporting our rural communities, and ensuring our families have access to affordable and nutritious food.

From our famous peaches to our high-quality pecans and our sweet Vidalia onions, Georgia's specialty crop farmers produce a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. I understand the unique challenges they face, which are only compounded by increased input costs and competition from seasonal imports. Last year, Georgia's farmers also faced multiple natural disasters, including a late freeze decimating our peach crop and Hurricane Idalia, which severely damaged many crops, including our pecan groves.

As your U.S. Senator and a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I have explored every avenue and pushed at every opportunity to provide critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance funding for Georgia's producers impacted by 2023 disasters.[1] I will continue to do so until our farmers receive the relief they need to recover from these extreme weather events.

The needs of Georgia's farmers are diverse, and I am committed to delivering for our farmers in the upcoming Farm Bill. My bipartisan *Protecting America's Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers Act*, introduced with Senator Tillis of North Carolina, would reform the Tree Assistance Program, one of the USDA's permanent disaster programs, to work more effectively, improve margins for producers, and help specialty crop producers compete with seasonal imports. I also introduced the bipartisan *Promoting Precision Agriculture Act*, with Senator Thune of South Dakota, which would require the Federal Communications Commission to develop interconnectivity standards for precision agriculture equipment, helping Georgia producers to farm more efficiently and save on input costs.

In October 2023, I sent a bipartisan letter with my Senate Agriculture Committee colleague, Senator Tuberville of Alabama, to Senate Agriculture Committee leadership outlining our joint priorities and commitment to supporting Southeastern Agriculture in the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization process.[2] I will continue to work in a bipartisan manner, with all my colleagues, to deliver for Georgia's farmers.

Thank you again for contacting me. I am committed to working with you and my colleagues in Congress to support all of Georgia's producers, including our specialty crop farmers. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I may be assistance to you or the Georgians you represent.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

[1] Press Release, *Sens. Ossoff, Rev. Warnock Press Biden Administration to Strengthen Agricultural Disaster Assistance for Georgia Farmers*, Office of Senator Jon Ossoff (Oct. 24, 2023), <https://www.ossoff.senate.gov/press-releases/sens-ossoff-rev-warnock-press-biden-administration-to-strengthen-agricultural-disaster-assistance-for-georgia-farmers>; Press Release, *Senator Reverend Warnock Highlights Efforts to Support Georgia Farmers and Protect Federal Disaster Assistance in Farm Bill During Visit to Damaged Pecan Farm in Albany*, Office of Senator Raphael Warnock (Dec. 8, 2023), <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-highlights-efforts-to-support-georgia-farmers-and-protect-federal-disaster-assistance-in-farm-bill-during-visit-to-damaged-pecan-farm-in-albany>; *Letter to Senate Leadership Regarding Disaster Relief*, Office of Senator Raphael Warnock (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Quill-Letter-L13985-Disaster-Funding-Letter-Version-3-12-12-2023-@-05-40-PM.pdf>.

[2] Press Release, *Following Visit to Morgan County Farm, Senator Reverend Warnock Leads Bipartisan Effort to Secure Southeastern Agriculture Priorities in Federal Farm Bill*, Office of Senator Raphael Warnock (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/following-visit-to-morgan-county-farm-senator-reverend-warnock-leads-bipartisan-effort-to-secure-southeastern-agriculture-priorities-in-federal-farm-bill>.