

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 13, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Stabenow,

Thank you for your ongoing work on your *Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act* and your commitment to passing a multi-year, bipartisan Farm Bill. I write to reiterate my support for securing a meaningful increase in reference prices in this year's Farm Bill reauthorization to help shore up the farm safety net for Georgia's producers.

I'm glad that, thanks to our months-long collaboration, your proposed framework protects funding for nutrition programs as well as climate-smart agriculture. I believe it is essential that any Farm Bill reauthorization protects the family safety net and does not gut critical nutrition programs that many underserved Georgia families rely on.

I was especially pleased to see that many of my priorities were included in your proposal, including my *Southern Commodities, Rates, Opportunities, Production, and Support (Southern CROPS) Act*, my bipartisan *Protecting America's Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers Act*, and my bipartisan *Promoting Precision Agriculture Act*. I proudly introduced these bills to provide crucial updates to U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that producers in Georgia need to compete, stay afloat amid rising input costs, recover from natural disasters, benefit from technological innovations, and spur economic development in rural communities.

In addition to these important priorities, I reiterate my support for securing a meaningful increase in reference prices in this year's Farm Bill in response to increases in production costs faced by many commodity farmers in Georgia. While I appreciate your inclusion of a reference price increase in your proposal, especially for southern commodities like peanuts and cotton, I am concerned that this increase is not enough to ensure Georgia farmers can stay on their land, provide good-paying jobs for our state, and continue to harvest nutritious food for Georgia families.

As you work with Ranking Member Boozman, as well as Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott, to pass a Farm Bill reauthorization, I encourage you to continue protecting the family safety net while at the same time securing the farm safety net. Please count me as a partner in that work as our bipartisan conversations continue.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator