



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Richard Fordyce  
Undersecretary, Farm Production and Conservation  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Undersecretary Fordyce,

We want to thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the U.S. Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program that was announced at the end of last year. Farmers, ranchers, and producers across the country are at a breaking point due to high input costs and market disruption, and this assistance is a step in the right direction.

We write today to respectfully request USDA address understaffing at Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) county offices across the country. Without proper staffing, it has become increasingly difficult for offices to implement programs, including the FBA. We have heard from our constituents about major delays in application processing, payments, and contract certification over the last several months. While a majority of these concerns have centered around conservation programs and the FBA program, we remain concerned this will be an ongoing issue for all programs under the Farm Production and Conservation mission area.

In comments you made to Agri-Pulse in mid-March acknowledging the staffing concerns, you noted that USDA is looking at ways to address gaps, including deploying staff to affected county offices a few days a week. While we appreciate these comments and believe this has been a helpful step in getting program applications processed and submitted, it is only a temporary solution to an ongoing problem.

To best assist our nation's farmers, ranchers, and producers, there needs to be adequate staffing and resources to deliver on promises made. We appreciate the work USDA is doing on behalf of American agriculture and look forward to working with you to ensure the continued strength and longevity of American farmers.

Sincerely,

DAN NEWHOUSE  
4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5816



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

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Kat Cammack  
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Michael Baumgartner  
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C. Scott Franklin  
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James R. Baird, PhD  
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Laurel M. Lee  
Member of Congress

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Ben Cline  
Member of Congress

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CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zachary Nunn".

Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Bacon".

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Boebert".

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Rouzer".

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Flood".

Mike Flood  
Member of Congress