

## The Republicans' Flawed Farm Bill

After a year of President Trump's chaotic trade wars and an affordability crisis triggered in part by inflationary tariffs, farmers and working people across America are hurting. Farm bankruptcies are up 46 percent, and lost export markets and high input costs are costing farmers billions. Cuts to food assistance in the Republican's Big Ugly Bill have pushed millions of American seniors, families with children, veterans and disabled people to the brink while grocery costs surge. The flawed farm bill fails to address the most pressing crises facing our farmers and the families they feed. It does not meet the moment.

### The Flawed Farm Bill Ignores...

**Food Assistance:** Despite surging food costs due to Trump's inflationary tariffs, the farm bill does nothing to restore basic needs food assistance programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which Republicans slashed by \$187 billion in H.R. 1 ("Big Ugly Bill"). 42 million Americans – the majority of whom are seniors, children and disabled – are under increasing financial strain and risk of going hungry because Republicans are taking food assistance away just as grocery prices skyrocket. Instead, this bill goes even further backwards – removing the few positive investments in the '24 farm bill – including eliminating additional funding for fruit and vegetable incentive programs.

**Farm Assistance:** Farm leaders and family farmers need a lifeline, thanks to Trump's ill-conceived tariffs and backward economic priorities which are driving input costs up and commodity prices down. Just as some families need SNAP to help keep food on the table, farmers need assistance to make it to the next crop year so they can continue feeding our communities. The flawed farm bill ignores this urgent need entirely and won't prevent farmers being in the same position next year.

**Trump's Trade Wars:** In January, House Democrats introduced the [Farm and Family Relief Act \(H.R. 7206\)](#) which helps end the tariffs and trade wars that have cost farmers over \$30 billion and shuttered farms across the country. The Republicans' flawed farm bill ignores the root of the economic crisis brewing in farm country entirely and does nothing to address Trump's tariffs, which are driving up operating costs, closing farmers out of their largest export markets and putting family farmers out of business.

### Instead, Republicans Focus On...

**Attacking State's Rights:** States like California and Massachusetts have set standards for pork products sold in their states, which has created a premium market for hog farmers to earn a living. Republicans want to overturn the will of voters in those states and deprive hog farmers of those premium markets, hurting individual farmers who already invested business capital to meet market demand.

**Protecting Corporations:** Republicans thumb their noses at the Make America Health Again movement by shielding the largest chemical companies in the world from any legal consequences of their products.

Their effort not only takes away states' ability to pursue local health and safety protections for their citizens but also jeopardizes passage of any farm bill.

**Handling Hemp Haphazardly:** Past farm bills legalized hemp and helped spur hemp-inspired innovation across business sectors, from non-ABV beverages to fibers to other hemp products. Hemp farmers, processors and retailers followed the law and built entire businesses and supply chains to get new products to market. This fall, the Republicans will essentially end the legalization of many of these new hemp products, threatening thousands of businesses and tens of thousands of jobs. Instead of abruptly changing the rules of the game, Congress should take time to deliberate and identify a viable way forward to address areas of concern without upending the industry and livelihoods that depend on it.

**Stifling Food Aid:** Elon Musk took a chainsaw to USAID and the international food aid programs it administered, including Food for Peace. Republicans are rubberstamping moving Food for Peace to USDA – a department that has recently lost or fired 20 percent of its staff and lacks the robust international logistics, security and distribution networks that made USAID an effective home for international food aid. Instead of bolstering Food for Peace's presence at USDA by providing adequate resources to run the program and promoting intergovernmental collaboration, the Republicans are setting it up for failure.

**Environmental Rollbacks:** After weakening environmental protections in their Big Ugly Bill, Republicans are using the farm bill to reduce funding for soil health and regenerative agriculture programs. This bill hurts the ability of farmers and ranchers to keep their land healthy, while also rolling back existing environmental protections that protect our drinking water.

**Undermining Tribes:** The Republicans' flawed farm bill misses opportunities to provide parity for Tribes and support Tribal self-determination. The bill removes provisions included in the 2024 version of the farm bill that provided additional funding for Tribes to administer nutrition assistance programs and resolve disputes between local farmers and creditors. It also removes provisions that would empower Tribes to help manage federal forest lands and restore natural, controlled fire to fire-adapted ecosystems.

## Missed Moment, Missed Opportunity...

The Republicans' bill falls far short of the historically bipartisan five-year, 12-title farm bill and contains many other controversial policies and harmful changes to longstanding farm bill programs. While there are some policies that Democrats support, this skinny shell of a farm bill does not meet the moment or address the most urgent problems confronting America's family farmers and working people.

The bill could have been stronger, and likely garnered Democratic support, had Republicans engaged in good-faith negotiations throughout the process. Unfortunately, they abandoned the bipartisan farm bill coalition during reconciliation and prioritized loyalty to President Trump instead. House Democrats will not be a rubberstamp for business-as-usual Republicans in their mission to march lockstep with trade wars, tariffs and higher costs for Americans.