



Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson
Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit
“Producer Perspectives on the 2023 Farm Bill”
Opening Statement
April 26, 2023

Remarks as prepared for delivery:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Brown for holding this important hearing. As you all are aware, over the last 4 months, the Agriculture Committee has been working overtime to hear the input of stakeholders, not just through hearings in Washington, D.C., but at field listening sessions across the country.

“Several of us are just returning from one of these listening sessions in Gainesville, Florida and others have attended events in New York, Texas, California, and my home state of Pennsylvania. In addition, I have traveled to over 40 states since becoming Republican Leader of the House Committee on Agriculture. I have done this because I know that to get the policy right, we need to hear directly from the folks in the countryside instead of voices within the beltway.

“Today, the countryside is coming to us. I am very pleased we will hear directly from producers about the priorities of 10 national commodity groups. These policies were developed through grassroots efforts of the members of those associations and will provide valuable insight to the Committee as we work to craft a strong, on time, and effective 2023 Farm Bill.

“Through the listening sessions and my travels, I have heard loud and clear that the farm safety net—both commodity policy and crop insurance—needs improvements. These improvements will come with a price tag, which is why it was so critical that Ranking Member Scott and I were able to craft a strong Budget Views and Estimates letter that was unanimously adopted by the Committee. This letter to the Budget Committee clearly articulated the needs and justifications for additional resources to write a meaningful Farm Bill.

“To maximize the impact of any additional funding that may come, we will need valuable feedback from stakeholders about where those dollars can go the furthest to assist our farmers, which will ultimately benefit consumers and rural

communities. The insight from today's hearing is an important part of ensuring members of this Committee have a clear understanding of the right policy, then it will be incumbent upon us to navigate the politics to get the best possible Farm Bill to the President's desk. This is no small undertaking, and it will require all of us—stakeholders and members alike—to pull on our work boots. But if there is any sector that knows the value of hard work, it is agriculture.

“So, I want to thank all of the witnesses again for their participation today and throughout this process, and I yield back.”