



**Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson**  
**Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee**  
***“Stakeholder Perspectives on USDA’s Rural Development Programs”***  
**Opening Statement**  
**June 13, 2023**

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***Remarks as prepared for delivery:***

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

“Good morning and thank you again to our witnesses for sharing their time and expertise with us today.

“Since the early 1930s, the federal government has provided much needed technical and financial support to rural families and farm households.

“According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the rural population declined between 2010 and 2020, which marked the first decade-long rural population loss in history.

“Using science, technology, and innovation as guiding points, the House Agriculture Committee has the great opportunity to build upon previous efforts and authorizations to restore a robust rural economy through the 2023 Farm Bill.

“To best equip rural America for success, it is critical we have thoughtful and well-developed Rural Development and Energy Titles.

“These programs are well-positioned to make a difference for the citizens each of us represents, whether it be providing reliable, affordable, and accessible baseload power, supporting economic development through loans and grants, or assisting ag producers with their own operations.

“As I often say, rural America is essential America, and without our rural producers, America would wake up in the cold, dark, and hungry.

“I appreciate the panelists joining us and look forward to today’s conversation.

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.”