

November 30, 2017

Chairman K. Michael Conaway
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

As the House Committee on Agriculture continues to consider the Farm Bill Reauthorization Act of 2018, I would like to prioritize the need to restructure the Margin Protection Program-Dairy (MPP). While Congress enacted the MPP-Dairy in 2014, the program has fallen short of providing the protection required to be an effective farm safety net for farms in my district and across the country.

The region I represent, Wisconsin's 6th District, includes several of the nation's leading dairy farming counties, including Manitowoc and Fond du Lac. A number of the farms in my district have expressed the MPP-Dairy has not performed as intended in the 2014 Farm Bill and would like to see changes to the program as the Farm Bill is reauthorized. The program needs to be reformed in order for it to provide effective risk management for producers. This can be better executed by restoring the cut made to the program's feed formula or by adjusting the program's coverage levels upward. I feel it would be beneficial for margin calculations to be made on a monthly basis to more closely reflect producer needs.

Additionally, I believe it would be best if the MPP-Dairy had expanded access to as many risk management tools as possible. As you may know, in administering the federal crop insurance program, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) has interpreted 'livestock' to include livestock products, such as milk or eggs. However, the statute does not actually define specific livestock products. Therefore, it is clear that the Department has the authority to decide that livestock and livestock *products* are two different and separate types of commodities. As such, I believe that milk as an agricultural commodity should be eligible under federal crop insurance.

I appreciate your dedicated effort to complete the Farm Bill Reauthorization Act of 2018 in a timely manner. Thank you for reaching out to my colleagues and myself for our input. Please do not hesitate to reach out in the future if I may be of any further assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress