

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6000
202-224-2035

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We write to urge you to consider using your authorities with regard to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act to support the creation of new and better market opportunities for our nation's farmers by addressing two key needs: trade promotion, and in-kind international food assistance.

As Congress works toward reauthorizing critical programs in the Farm Bill, we continue to hear from organizations representing the vast majority of U.S. agriculture about the need to strengthen trade opportunities, increase revenue streams, and help producers grow and thrive in a global economy. Farm Bill trade promotion programs help address these needs and build new markets. We believe that resources available under the CCC can support similar efforts to open access to markets and promote American-grown products abroad.

There is also bipartisan support for critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) international food assistance programs. Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine continues to disrupt supply chains and perpetuate humanitarian crises in the region and around the world. Commodity producers are supportive of such USDA food assistance. We urge you to explore using CCC resources to advance food assistance initiatives, which will both address humanitarian needs abroad and support American farmers.

We are diligently working to produce a strong Farm Bill that can earn majority support in both chambers of Congress. We urge you to consider these requests, and stand ready to support USDA in its effort to address these needs.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman



John Boozman
Ranking Member