NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500B • Washington, D.C. 20001 • (202) 547-7800 • wheatworld.org

November 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leaders Thune, Jeffries, and Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership and support of American agriculture and the families it feeds. On behalf of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), I urge you to enact a bipartisan, five-year farm bill before the end of this year.

We appreciate the work that brought the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026* (H.R. 7567) through the House in April and the *Agricultural Act of 2026* (S. 5526) through the Senate Agriculture Committee in September. That progress gives Congress a genuine opportunity to finish the farm bill this year. We ask Senate leadership to bring the bill to the floor during the lame-duck session and leaders in both chambers to work with the Agriculture Committees now to resolve outstanding differences and send a final bill to the President.

The farm economy cannot wait for Congress to start over. Across much of farm country, several years of tight margins have left farm families with less working capital and less room to absorb another setback. In wheat country, USDA estimates that the value of wheat production fell short of full production costs by a national average of $71 per planted acre in 2023, $101 in 2024, and $128 in 2025. Conditions vary by region and class of wheat, but the national figures show why one better price outlook cannot undo several years of losses.

USDA's November forecast puts the full cost of growing wheat in 2026 at $433 per planted acre, including nearly $76 for fertilizer alone. The $39.35-per-acre Farmer Bridge Assistance payment was welcome, but it amounted to just over half of that fertilizer bill. Many wheat growers already have next year's winter crop in the ground and are arranging financing for the coming season. If Congress lets this opportunity pass, the farm bill process will start over in the 120th Congress. Growers cannot put their planting and borrowing decisions on hold while Washington starts again.

Both bills include provisions that would help wheat growers manage risk, secure financing, and compete for customers. We urge you to retain these priorities in a final agreement.

- **Permanently transfer Food for Peace to USDA.** The House bill directly transfers Food for Peace authorities to USDA, and the Senate bill establishes a process to make that

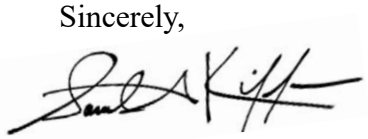
transfer permanent. The final bill should establish USDA's authority in law, ensure continuity for food aid partners, and preserve a strong commitment to in-kind assistance sourced from American growers.

- **Invest in export market development and protect confidence in U.S. grain.** Both bills increase dedicated funding for the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program. These programs help U.S. wheat growers keep existing customers and compete for new ones. We also support both bills' long-term reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, which helps buyers rely on consistent, impartial grain inspection.
- **Improve crop insurance for dryland wheat growers.** Retain the Senate provision to study separate enterprise units for fallow and continuously cropped acres. These practices carry different production risks. The goal should be to give growers the option to insure them separately while preserving the option to insure them together.
- **Support voluntary conservation and wheat research.** Retain the House provision directing USDA to study the environmental benefits of winter wheat as a cover crop, including when it is carried through to harvest. We also support both bills' reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program and continued investment in agricultural research and extension that helps growers manage disease, withstand drought, and improve yields.
- **Modernize farm credit and protect the farm safety net.** Retain the higher USDA farm loan limits in both bills so operating and ownership loans better reflect the cost of farming today. Preserve existing base acres and the safety-net improvements enacted last year without requiring a mandatory base-acre update.

We also urge Congress to provide meaningful economic and disaster assistance this session, with payments that reflect the costs and losses wheat growers have faced. Immediate assistance can help farm families secure financing for another crop. A five-year farm bill gives them a more reliable basis for planning beyond it. Wheat growers need both.

The House and Senate have already done much of the work. We ask you to build on that progress, reach a bipartisan agreement, and enact a new farm bill before the 119th Congress adjourns. NAWG stands ready to work with your offices and the Agriculture Committees to get it done.

Sincerely,



Sam Kieffer
CEO

cc: Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar
cc: House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson and Ranking Member Angie Craig