



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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December 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The American Farm Bureau Federation writes to express our support for the request by the National Cotton Council for you to use discretionary authority to establish a cottonseed program under Title 1 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

Our cotton producers are experiencing difficult economic conditions that are not sufficiently addressed by the new Farm Bill's safety net and risk management programs and provisions. As some of our Board members shared during their discussion, it seems the new cotton Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) program has not worked as well as envisioned.

This deficiency will be minimized if cottonseed can be administratively designated as an "other oilseed" under provisions the Farm Bill and therefore be made eligible for Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Average Risk Coverage (ARC) safety net program benefits.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to working with you on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Stallman'.

Bob Stallman
President
American Farm Bureau Federation