

Representative Jackson Introduces Pro-Texas Agriculture Legislation

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

By Casey Nelson

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressmen Ronny Jackson (R-TX) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX) introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at helping the Texas agriculture community recover from the recent winter storm. **H.R. 1692**, the **RESTORE** (Rehabilitating Economic Success Through Overcoming Rural Emergencies) Act, would help our farmers recover from natural disasters by reauthorizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) to cover natural disasters from 2020 and 2021. This program previously provided payments to producers to offset losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019.

Jackson said: "I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort for Texas' agriculture community alongside my colleague, Congressman Cuellar. The historic winter conditions experienced in Texas resulted in over \$600 million of agricultural losses, leaving many crops and dairy products destroyed. In Texas, agriculture production is critical for our economy and food supply. The RESTORE Act will go a long way to support our farmers during this tumultuous time as they work on restoring their operations. This bill will also re-stabilize our food supply, which recent events have proven is not invincible. Texans are resilient, so I know we will get through this together!"

Cuellar said: "Texas farmers and ranchers have suffered widespread and catastrophic losses from recent natural disasters. This legislation will provide critical assistance to crop and livestock producers because of droughts, extreme cold, and power outages. As a senior member of the Agricultural Subcommittee on Appropriations, I am committed to delivering support to our agricultural industry who work every day to put food on our tables during this pandemic, and beyond."

Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said: "Texas Farm Bureau is pleased Congressmen Ronny Jackson and Henry Cuellar have introduced the RESTORE Act to provide needed and expanded assistance for farmers and ranchers impacted by extreme weather events. Whether it was the most recent winter storm, hurricanes in 2020, or ongoing drought conditions in other regions of the state, Texas agricultural producers are in desperate need of relief. We thank Congressmen Jackson and Cuellar for working to address these challenges head-on. Texas Farm Bureau is proud to support this bipartisan legislation and looks forward to working with leaders in Congress to provide relief for hardworking farm and ranch families across the country."

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. CEO Steve Verett said: "On behalf of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., we strongly support the bipartisan legislation lead by Congressman Ronny Jackson (R-Texas) and Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) known as the Rehabilitating Economic Success Through Overcoming Rural Emergencies Act (RESTORE Act). Cotton farmers across the High Plains and all of Texas have been vastly impacted by concurrent events brought on by mother nature including the recent winter storm that swept the Lone Star State. We greatly appreciate the expansion of the USDA Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP)+ to include losses incurred due to high winds, polar vortexes, hailstorms, freeze and all drought

for the 2020-2021 crop year. These losses which are currently not covered by USDA WHIP+, significantly impact farmers throughout the region and state that can leave a lasting financial burden."

Jackson is quickly establishing himself as a leader in advancing Texas' agriculture priorities in Congress through his work as Co-Chair of the Texas Agriculture Task Force.

Co-sponsors of the RESTORE Act include Representatives Brady, Arrington, Burgess, Cloud, Babin, Sessions, Weber, Gohmert, Van Dwyne, Pfluger, Gonzales, and Fallon of Texas.

Senator Ted Cruz Visits with Cotton Industry Members

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

By Whitney Curry

On Wednesday afternoon, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) sat down to meet with members of Plains Cotton Growers and the Texas cotton industry via a Zoom conference call to discuss issues important to the cotton sector and provide an update on current issues in Washington, D.C.

Impacts to the agriculture industry from winter storm Uri, along with the recent debate and adoption of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan by Congress were key topics of discussion with Senator Cruz. PCG was very appreciative of the Senator's support of an amendment offered by Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) to the American Rescue Plan which would have extended the USDA WHIP+ program for the 2020 crop year but failed to gain the 60-vote threshold needed to be adopted. Additionally, it was emphasized in the meeting that Congress needs to maintain the provisions made through the enactment of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

"PCG is grateful for Senator Cruz and the work he has done for Texas during his time in Congress," says Steve Verett, Chief Executive Officer at Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., "Navigating through the current political gates of Washington, D.C. takes a passionate leader, Senator Cruz is certainly dedicated to fighting for important issues to Texas and the agriculture industry."

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Enrollment Deadline Announced

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

By National Cotton Council

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol recently announced that **March 31, 2021** is the deadline for producers who have not completed their U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol enrollment.

Email growers@trustuscotton.org to access a help desk, where producers can have their questions answered and get step-by-step enrollment assistance.

Your complete enrollment in the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol is critical to the success of the program. With your membership, the Trust Protocol will help apparel brands and retailers confidently source your cotton. If you haven't completed your enrollment, visit www.trustuscotton.org.

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