June 27, 2019

Dear Administrator Barbre:

We write regarding ongoing adverse weather conditions in Illinois that are expected to have negative effects on crop insurance coverage and payments for agriculture producers, agents and brokers. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Producers across Illinois are reporting delayed planting resulting from excess precipitation. According to the Illinois Farm Bureau, these delays are beyond the norm and will pose significant financial challenges for individual farmers, not the least of which will be meeting the current October 1, 2019, deadline for paying for crop insurance premiums.

The current delayed and disjointed planting season will undoubtedly result in late harvest for those producers that manage to plant a crop. A late harvest, combined with expected lower yields due to the shortened growing season, may cause significant financial management issues for impacted producers. The negative effects of these issues often spread beyond the farm to the broader rural economy and communities.

The weather and soil conditions facing Illinois producers are exceptional. We urge you to exercise any authorities or discretion provided pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide producers, in coordination with Approved Insurance Providers, additional time necessary to make crop insurance payments for the current growing season. Delaying the payment deadline until at least December 1, 2019, will protect producers from potential financial ruin.

Once again, your prompt attention to this matter is appreciate. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rep. Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Bost
Member of Congress
Rep. Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Rep. Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Rep. Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Rep. Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Rep. Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Rep. Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

Rep. Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Rep. John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

Rep. Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress

Rep. Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress