

May 22, 2020

The Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

On behalf of millions of Americans who earn their livelihoods in the agricultural and rural economy - especially small business - we appreciate Congress providing historic relief measures during the health and economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we are pleased that Congress has not only passed, but continues to refine and improve the landmark Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

There are thousands of not for profits groups formed as a (4) (5) or (6) that support or promote critical essential professions, industries, small businesses, American crafts and workers. Many of these are important ag-focused, non-profit groups that serve as key resources for farming best practices, market data, educational outreach, agricultural education, Agri-marketing, farm and ranch life, youth in agriculture, rural life, and most urgently, pandemic-related assistance. Without the benefit of 501(c) (4), (5) or (6) operations, a diverse group of employers including family farms, horse breeding operations, and state and county fairs, just to name a few examples, will lose an important resource for tools necessary to move beyond the pandemic and resume their roles as top job creators.

We are sure you would concur that the fabric of America is constructed of many different kinds of endeavors and organizations whose employees and volunteers serve our economy and communities. By extending emergency loan eligibility to an enlarged group of not for profits, Congress will provide a necessary tool for the SBA to accomplish congressional objectives pursuant to the largest economic rescue package in American history. In short, giving not for profit organizations the means to remain in operation during the crisis will help preserve jobs and expedite delivery of pandemic-related information to rural employers and workers.

On May 15, the House passed The Heroes Act. That legislation strengthening the Payroll Protection Program to ensure that it reaches underserved communities and nonprofits of all sizes and types *by expanding eligibility to all not-for-profit organizations*. As the Senate considers this next legislative package focused both on recovery and stimulus, we hope that those provisions will be maintained.

By ensuring agricultural groups are eligible to participate this historic job rescue program, Congress will pave the way for rural America to reverse the job losses inflicted by COVID-19. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dail Foley

American Association of Equine Practitioners

Larry Powell

American Farm Bureau Federation

Judie M. Goodway

American Horse Council

Alyne Dickerson

League of Agricultural and Equine Centers

Betsy E. Huber

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National Dairy Herd Information Association

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National Renderers Association

Maria P. Glaw

International Association of Fairs and Expositions

Bryan B. Chubb

Outdoor Amusement Business Association