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May 12, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510
Fax: 202-228-2125

*A unified voice for all
elements of the goat
industry in public policy,
education, research, and
marketing of goat products.*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Goat Federation (AGF) and the 158,000 farm and ranch families producing goat products, I write to urge prompt and favorable consideration of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Advisory Council

Dr. Reid Redden (TX)

Dr. Ken Andries (KY)

Dr Fred Homeyer (TX)

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Dr. Nar Gurung (AL)

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Ms Susan Schoenian (MD)

Key provisions important to America's goat producers, including predator control, FDA Minor Use Animal Drug Program, trade promotion, and infrastructure will expire this fall with the current Farm Bill. AGF is the national voice of the America's goat producers, and we strongly support enactment of the new Farm Bill this year.

There is one very important provision that we would like to see the wording changed on in the chairman's mark prior to committee markup. Although this simple fix did not make it into the House version of the bill, we humbly request that it be fixed on the Senate side. This is a simple, no-cost ask from our industry that simply restores the wording to what it originally was, and it would allow us to re-enter the competitive grant program currently known as the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program (SPMGP), but formerly known as the Sheep and Goat Production and Marketing Grant Program. Somehow in the last farm bill, the word "GOAT" was deleted from the title, which prohibited our industry from receiving important grants that could lead to product development, health nutritional and diet breakthroughs, infrastructure support and much, much more. The Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program (section 209 of the AMA of 1946) is intimately connected to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) which we would like that center to be called the National Sheep and Goat Industry Improvement Center.

American Goat Federation

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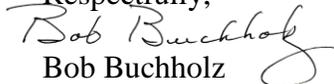
This program was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill and provided \$1.5 M for fiscal year 2014 (to remain available until expended) of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding to USDA/AMS for the SPMGP. The SPMGP provided funds on a competitive basis to national organizations whose mission is to strengthen and enhance the production and marketing of sheep, goats, and sheep and goat products in the United States, including the improvement of infrastructure business, resource development, and the development of innovative approaches to solve long-term needs.

We also support providing mandatory funding for the SPMGP.

We have worked very hard to partner with the American Sheep Industry and currently hold a seat on their executive board. We look forward to a continued working relationship and continued shared growth of America's goat and sheep numbers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Anita Dahnke at 765-430-2075, or Tammy Fisher at 202-468-5262.

Please count on our active support for the Act, and the ample risk management and animal health tools it will provide for America's goat producers and the food it will put on the tables of Americans and the world.

Respectfully,

Bob Buchholz
President