

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

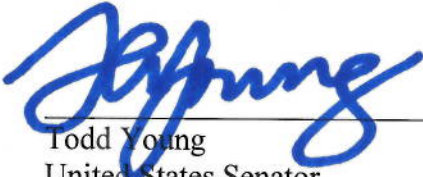
We write to you today to express our deep concern with planting progress in Indiana, and to urge you to expeditiously finalize guidance related to the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump.

Indiana is experiencing the worst planting progress levels for corn and soybeans in recorded history. According to data released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), corn planting in Indiana was 31% planted for the week of June 2nd, and 67% planted for the week of June 9th. Likewise, soybean planting is at 17% and 42% respectively. These percentages are far behind national averages and planting progress data from 2018. Delays in planting were caused by six weeks of extreme prolonged rain making maneuvering farm equipment impossible. The weather forecast for Indiana over the next two weeks also includes periods of heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms. As the crop insurance planting deadline passed on June 5th for corn, and the upcoming deadline for soybeans on June 20th approaches, farmers are facing a myriad of confusing decisions: planting remaining acres at a coverage loss, switching crops which will affect planned rotations, and filing for prevented planting coverage under crop insurance.

The recent disaster bill includes language that allows prevented planting payments under crop insurance to not exceed 90% and provides additional authority to compensate producers on the higher of the projected price or harvest price. As the USDA finalizes program eligibility and application guidance, we strongly encourage consideration of Indiana's prolonged exposure to rains that have prevented farmers from planting and will inevitably result in a shortened growing season with decreased yields. We also encourage the USDA to consider using existing authorities to adjust prevented planting deadline dates, adjust the 1% per day penalty for coverage, or other avenues that will alleviate Hoosier farmers' burden in dealing with detrimental effects from adverse weather.

The Indiana delegation remains united in strengthening our rural communities, which benefit our entire state. Indiana is a national leader in corn and soybean production, and we hope you will consider efforts to mitigate the immediate and long-term effects of planting hardship in Indiana.

Sincerely,



Todd Young
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Pete Visclosky
Member of Congress



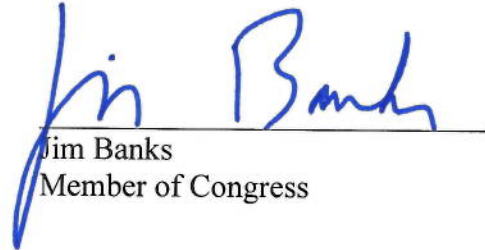
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



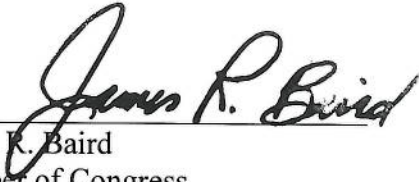
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress