

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to you today to express our fervent support of the joint request from Governor Holcomb, Lieutenant Governor Crouch and the Indiana USDA State Emergency Board for a Secretarial disaster designation in 88 counties of the State of Indiana.

Indiana farmers experienced prolonged rains for the 2019 spring season, affecting their ability to plant corn and soybeans in a timely fashion before crop insurance deadlines passed. This adverse weather caused many farmers to file prevented planting claims and those able to plant will inevitably face a shortened growing season with decreased yields at harvest time. To that end, 88 counties are requesting a disaster designation from the Secretary of Agriculture based on unplanted fields, damage and losses of at least 30% of a single crop caused by excessive rain, flooding and/or a significant number of affected producers. The crop losses were attributed to heavy precipitation that resulted in difficulties accessing fields, negative impacts on plant growth and emergence, and will have long-lasting market implications.

The Indiana delegation strongly supports this joint request for a Secretarial disaster designation, as this will provide struggling farmers access to critical tools that enhance risk management strategies throughout the growing season. We also urge favorable consideration for any future efforts to provide continuous coverage to the additional four counties not included in the original request. The availability of emergency loans through this designation will help alleviate the financial and economic burden caused by extreme weather and will in turn strengthen our rural communities. We hope you will support this effort to mitigate the immediate and long-term effects of planting hardship in Indiana. We ask for your favorable consideration of this request, and eagerly await your response.

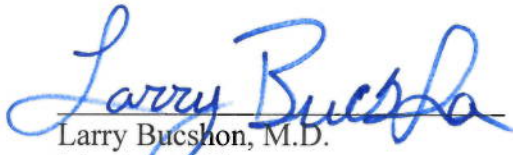
Sincerely,



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



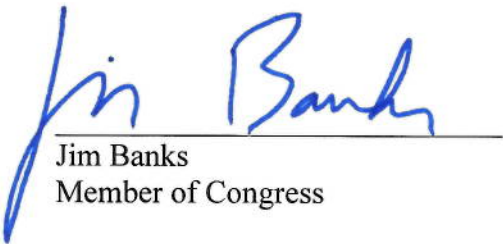
Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



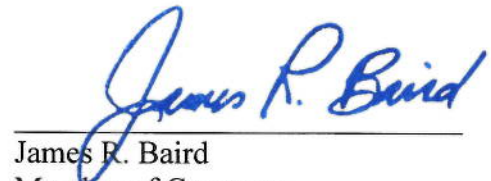
André Carson
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress