

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write to communicate concerns that we have heard from farmers, livestock producers, biofuel processors, and timber harvesters and haulers in our state regarding delays in payments from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program. As you continue working to provide relief for those negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, we respectfully ask that you expedite program implementation wherever possible.

In January 2021, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced several updates to the first and second rounds of CFAP, including expanded eligibility for contract livestock growers and additional inventory payments for independent livestock producers. Additionally, in March 2021, USDA announced dedicated funding for biofuel processors, timber harvesting and hauling businesses, and livestock producers that suffered losses due to insufficient processing capacity.

We support your focus on equitably implementing CFAP and providing financial assistance to those that were left out of previous pandemic relief packages, but we are concerned that some of those most impacted by the pandemic have yet to receive assistance. Many have been seeking clarification from our offices about the timing of payments.

The coronavirus pandemic brought about unprecedented challenges for the entire agriculture industry and many rural communities. As you know, supply chain disruptions and market volatility created significant financial uncertainty and revenue losses. For many farm families and agricultural industries, the support of CFAP payments helped keep their farms and businesses going during these challenging times.

For this reason, we respectfully ask you to expedite implementation of the additional assistance from CFAP directly to producers and distribute the new assistance from the Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program wherever possible.

Thank you again for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to ensure an equitable and strong pandemic recovery for agricultural producers.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator

Angie Craig

Angie Craig
Member of Congress