



Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

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October 4, 2023

The Office of Bill Cassidy
U.S. Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Cassidy,

On behalf of our 145,000 member families, our commodity committees, and all of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation and thanks for your introduction of the *Prioritizing Offensive Agriculture Disputes and Enforcement Act*.

For far too long, Louisiana rice farmers have had to do business in a one-sided market. You have continued to listen and take steps to help level the playing field for our members who continue to produce the food on our tables in a safe and sustainable manner. Through this act, you and your colleagues in Congress are showing the world that we no longer will stand aside as bad actors like India continuously operate outside of trade agreements and World Trade Organization standards. This strong sign of leadership does not go unnoticed by our organization, and we thank you for making our voices heard.

Rice, shrimp, and other commodities represented by our organization are continuing to experience extremely tight margins, severely inflated input costs, and other market challenges. Despite these hurdles, Louisiana farmers continue to lead by prioritizing sustainable practices, safe labor environments, and healthy foods to feed our families. Through the *Prioritizing Offensive Agriculture Disputes and Enforcement Act* we believe Louisianans will have better opportunity to prosper, support our local communities, and be less dependent on farm programs through more opportunity to capitalize in world markets. Until this act is passed and offenders are held accountable, producers of these leading Louisiana commodities will continue to suffer.

Thank you for standing up for our farmers and fishermen. We look forward to working with you to see this act passed and these vital Louisiana industries flourish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim T. Harper".

Jim T. Harper
President

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

Jim Harper
President

Marty Wooldridge
1st Vice-President

Scott Wiggers
2nd Vice-President

Richard Fontenot
3rd Vice-President

Michael Melancon
Secretary/Treasurer