



American Lamb Council



American Sheep Industry Association
Sheepusa.org



American Wool Council

Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Honorable Michael Conaway
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

August 15, 2018

Dear Chairmen Roberts and Conaway and Ranking Members Stabenow and Peterson:

On behalf of the 88,000 sheep and wool producing farm and ranch families that comprise the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), please accept our sincere appreciation for your leadership shepherding the 2018 Farm Bill.

We are grateful that most sheep industry priorities, such as the wool, marketing grant, and animal disease preparedness programs, are included in both the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill. In addition, we appreciate the inclusion of livestock industry-wide export and emergency assistance programs in both bills.

As you begin reconciliation of the House and Senate passed farm bills, we ask that two provisions contained in House bill be included in the final conference report, specifically:

- **SECTION. 8338—VACANT GRAZING ALLOTMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN GRAZING PERMIT HOLDERS**—This provision is critical to the multi-generational sheep ranching families who utilize federal lands for grazing their sheep. In fact, over 40% of ewes in the United States spend some portion of the year on U.S. Forest Service or BLM administered lands. John Helle, a 4th generation Montana sheep rancher, recently provided compelling testimony before the House, and his story and excellent example of why we need this provision to partially address the threat to his and countless other family operations. <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/preserving-opportunities-for-grazing-on-federal-land/>
- **SECTION 11101--ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.** ASI is excited about the permanent funding for minor use and minor species animal drug development and animal disease preparedness, and this provision will positively impact every sheep operation in America, while providing improved health options for our animals.

Finally, please find enclosed an ASI conference position paper containing detailed recommendations on specific provisions.

Again, thank you for your leadership and support of America's sheep producers, we pledge our support to help with prompt enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

Mike Corn, President
American Sheep Industry Association