

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems; Proposed Rule; RIN 0581-AE18; 89 Fed. Reg. 49002 (June 10, 2024); Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets; Proposed Rule; RIN 0581-AE04; 89 Fed. Reg. 53886 (June 28, 2024).

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

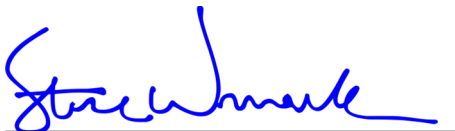
As members with an interest in the affordability, availability, and quality of meat and poultry products, we respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) grant a 180-day extension of the comment period for the above-referenced proposed rules. For the reasons below, we believe such an extension is warranted.

In addition to the industry having re-adjusted thousands of contracts with farmers over the Christmas holiday, the breadth of new requirements outlined in the proposed rules and their impacts on how integrators and contract farmers interact warrant careful scrutiny, analysis, and the submission of comprehensive comments. To that end, it is critical that additional time be allotted to the affected integrators and producers so that they may provide the most informed and substantive comments possible.

For the above-referenced reasons, we respectfully request that the comment period for the proposed rule entitled "Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems" be extended by 180 days so that it closes on February 5, 2025. Additionally, we request that the comment period for the proposed rule entitled "Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets" be extended by 180 days so that it closes on March 10, 2025. Noting that the USDA has extended the comment period on this rule for an additional 15 days, we continue to request that the comment period be extended by 180 days from the updated published date.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



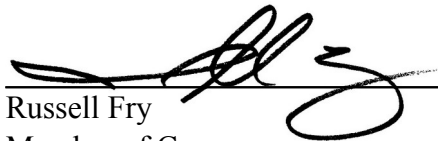
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Russell Fry
Member of Congress



Keith Self
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



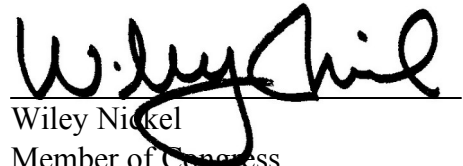
Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



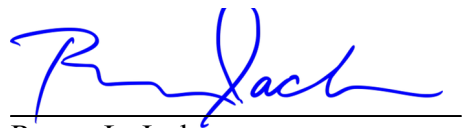
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



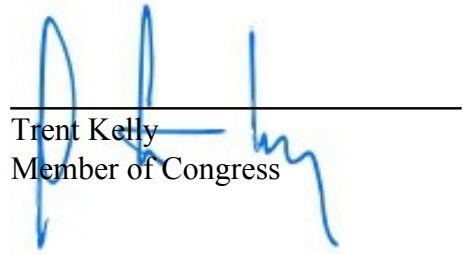
Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



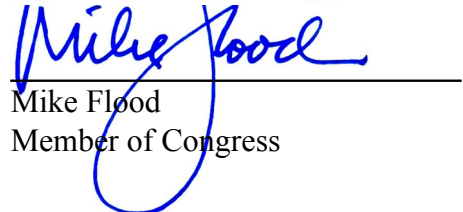
Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



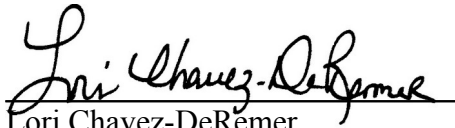
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Mike Flood
Member of Congress



French Hill
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



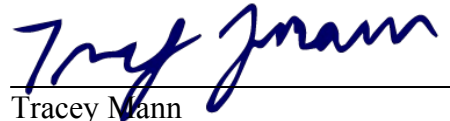
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



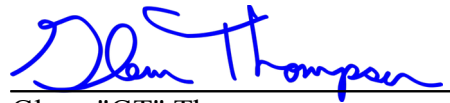
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



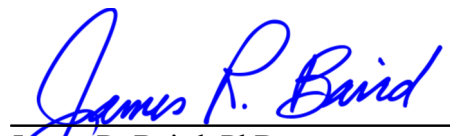
Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



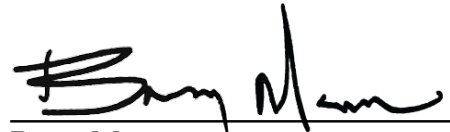
James R. Baird, PhD
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

C. Scott Franklin

C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann

Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Nathaniel Moran

Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress

John S. Duarte

John S. Duarte
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Brad Finstad

Brad Finstad
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



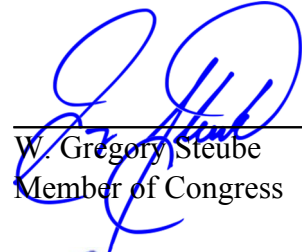
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



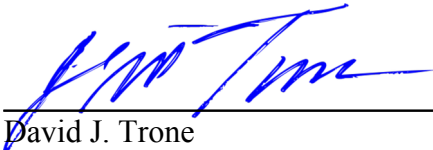
Harold Rogers
Member of Congress



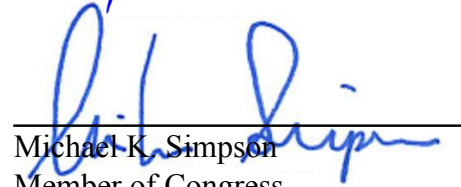
Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress




David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



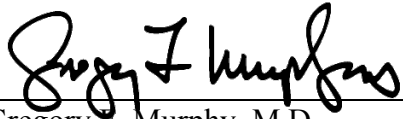
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



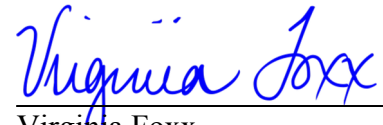
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Gregory P. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



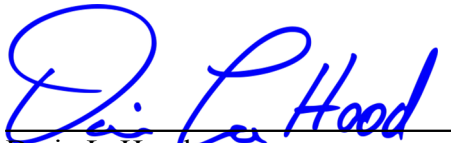
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



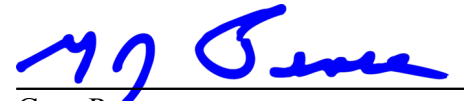
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



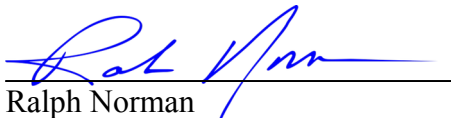
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



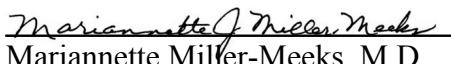
A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



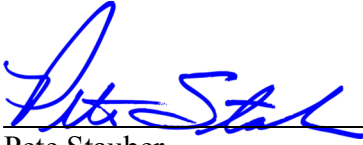
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



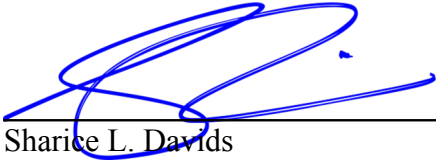
Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



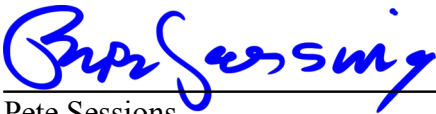
Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



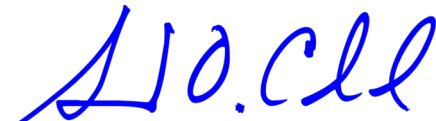
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress

Cc: S. Brett Offutt, Chief Legal Officer and Policy Advisor, Packers and Stockyards Division, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Fair Trade Practices Program

Andrew Green, Senior Advisor, Fair and Competitive Markets

Michael Durando, Deputy Administrator, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Fair Trade Practices Program