

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

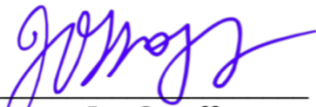
Congratulations on your new role as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Georgia farmers remain Georgia's economic engine as they feed and clothe our Nation and the world. Accordingly, we urge you to prioritize disbursing the economic assistance payments for commodity farmers facing financial difficulties that Congress appropriated last year.

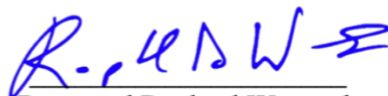
After reaching record levels in 2022, farm sector profitability declined in 2023 and 2024. For example, cotton producers had negative operating and total margins for 2024, and profitability for the average cotton producer was below the prior 10-year average.<sup>1</sup> These economic challenges were exacerbated by Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene, which caused billions of dollars in harm to Georgia's agricultural economy.

The *American Relief Act, 2025* was passed by Congress and signed into law with provisions intended to address the growing economic difficulties faced by our farmers and rural families. That law directed the Secretary of Agriculture to make \$10 billion in direct payments for agricultural producers of certain commodities by March 21, 2025. We were glad to hear you mention the importance of providing farmers with economic assistance during your Senate confirmation hearing.

However, we remain concerned by recent attacks against Congressionally authorized federal funding programs. We urge you to make these economic payments to farmers without delay. This assistance is crucial to ensuring that Georgia farmers can continue the vital work of feeding and clothing my State, our Nation, and the world.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

  
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Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R48278/4>