

# THE COALITION TO PROMOTE **U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports Welcomes Increased Export Promotion Funding in House Farm Bill Draft**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports today heralded the Farm Bill reauthorization introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-PA) that doubles the investment in America’s most vital agricultural export promotion programs - the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program.

“With today’s introduction of the “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024,” Chairman Thompson and his committee members have reversed three decades of declining investment in market access programs for American agriculture,” said Coalition Chairman Robbie Minnich. “Doubling MAP and FMD was the most requested, bipartisan Farm Bill priority from Members of the House. We are grateful to all the Republican and Democratic members who have cosponsored and requested this action. The Coalition urges the Committee and the full House of Representatives to support this investment in agricultural trade by expeditiously passing this overdue reauthorization.”

Doubling the investment in the MAP and FMD programs has taken on added importance because U.S. agricultural exports are facing a third straight year of trade deficit. Combined, at least 60 bipartisan members of the U.S. House and the Senate from across the nation are seeking to reverse this worrisome trend by cosponsoring S. 176, Expanding Agricultural Exports Act and H.R. 648, the Agriculture Export Promotion Act.

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“We continue expressing our appreciation to these members and urge them to act on the calls for greater ag trade investment by voting to pass these needed reinvestments in proven, agricultural market access programs,” Minnich said. “This proposed Farm Bill has made this investment and we need Congress to pass it as soon as possible.”

“We know these programs work, but we also know that our investments need to increase significantly to keep up with our competitors,” said Robbie Minnich, Director of Washington Operations for the National Cotton Council, and Chair of the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports.

Recent studies show a surge in public agri-food export promotion investment by the European Union and other competitors. But MAP funding hasn’t been increased since 2006, and FMD funding hasn’t been increased in two decades.

“These investments are crucial to American farmers and small businesses,” Minnich said. “And that’s why we are so thankful to our Senate and House champions for their continued leadership and commitment to doubling funding for MAP and FMD.”

The legislation must now be considered by the Agriculture Committee, and the Coalition urges the Committee to swiftly consider and pass this important bill.

The Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports is a group of 150 organizations focused on protecting and enhancing U.S. agricultural export promotion programs to help America’s agricultural industry reach more consumer and compete in a dynamic global marketplace.

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