



National Association of Wheat Growers

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March 11, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Bozeman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Bozeman:

Thank you for holding a hearing today on opportunities for farmers and foresters to lead in tackling climate change. The National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) members have been discussing climate policy issues and wanted to take this opportunity to share our current thinking on climate policy and ecosystem markets.

NAWG is a federation of 20 state wheat grower associations that works to represent the needs and interests of wheat producers before Congress and federal agencies. Based in Washington, D.C., NAWG is grower-governed and grower-funded, and works in areas as diverse as federal farm policy, trade, environmental regulation, agricultural research, and sustainability. Wheat growers are continually addressing changes within their operations from new seed varieties, crop rotations, pest pressures, shifts in weather patterns and natural disasters. Growers have seen the benefits of maintaining crop residue on the field, reducing tillage, using precision agriculture technology, and diversifying crop rotations. Because wheat is grown in many states, each operation will be managed differently, with different cropping and conservation management systems. Wheat production ranges from being double cropped in a single season, to being a rotational crop, to being grown in a fallow rotation in some of the driest areas in the country where practices like cover cropping would compete for soil moisture. Understanding and acknowledging these differences will be critical as Congress develops climate policy.

During the February 2021 Annual Meeting, the NAWG Board of Directors adopted the following resolutions

to guide the organization's engagement in legislative and administrative efforts on climate policy.

- Actively engage in federal and private carbon and climate policy and program development in a constructive manner to represent wheat growers' interests, ensuring proactive practical input to ensure policies are viable for grower adoption and the ongoing economic viability of agriculture.
- Oppose prescriptive, mandatory carbon/climate legislation or regulation that:
 - has a negative impact on production agriculture's economic viability,
 - is not science based, and/or
 - does not recognize regional or preferential differences in farming practices.
- Support recognizing certain agricultural practices as a benefit to the environment and society and compensating producers for providing those benefits.
- Support private and federal carbon-related programs and policies which are voluntary, market based, and provide economic opportunities for participating farmers. Programs should recognize the achievements of agriculture in protecting and restoring the environment by rewarding early adopters and those adding new practices. Programs should be science based, flexible and inclusive to include allowances for regional, geographic, or preferential differences in farming practices.
- Any legislative or federal policies addressing agricultural practices and carbon sequestration, or emissions should be led by the Congressional Agriculture Committees and administered by USDA.

NAWG supports voluntary, incentive based and market-based programs and opportunities for farmers to adopt conservation practices that sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These approaches must recognize that farming operations are different, and the practices and approaches must be flexible to work with individual farming operations.

NAWG appreciates the opportunity to offer our perspective for the record of today's hearing. We look forward to working with you as the Committee continues to discuss the growers' roles and opportunities to address climate issues.

Sincerely,



David Milligan
President