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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

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Brandon Willis
Administrator
Risk Management Agency
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 6092-South
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Willis:

Ohio is one of the largest popcorn producing states in the country. According to the most recent data, there are 165 popcorn crop growers in the state, including approximately 95 popcorn growers in my Congressional District alone.

I am concerned with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's (FCIC) recent Area Risk Protection Insurance Regulations and Area Risk Protection Insurance Crop Provisions Final Rule. Under this new rule, beginning with the 2014 crop year, current Group Risk Plan (GRP) and Group Risk Income Protection (GRIP) plans will be folded into a new single Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI) plan that does not allow written agreements for other/specialty crops. As a result, farmers will no longer have the ability to purchase extra protection for their popcorn crop, reducing their risk management option, which protects producers and the popcorn sector while ensuring supplies to the benefit of consumers.

While FCIC has indicated there have not been a large number of written agreements under GRP and GRIP plans, FCIC data shows this change will still adversely affect hundreds of farmers. As you do, I appreciate and support our nation's farmers and understand the yearly fluctuations that occur in crop production. I want to ensure that policies, such as the ARPI rule, do not place farmers at a disadvantage that hurts their ability to manage risk for popcorn production, as well as jeopardize future supplies of popcorn that could increase prices for consumers. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress