

ROBERT E. LATTA  
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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June 24, 2019

The Honorable Bill Northey  
Under Secretary of Agriculture  
Farm Production and Conservation  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1280 Maryland Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Under Secretary Northey,

Thank you for spending the time to discuss with me the agriculture situation in Northwest and West Central Ohio this planting season. As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) begins to review the situation in Ohio, I hope you will use all means within your power to ease the current uncertainty.

Since our last conversation, I was pleased to see USDA's announcement that the Risk Management Agency adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1 to help farmers who were prevented from planting because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring.

I look forward to USDA's continued communication on these issues and responses to the below questions;

1. In order to qualify for federal disaster assistance programs, does each county in the state of Ohio which has been affected need to submit data to USDA to receive an agriculture disaster designation?
2. Are there any assistance programs available to producers who are closely associated with the agriculture industry but do not own the crop land; such as co-operatives, dairy farmers, cattlemen, or those who harvest and process crops, such as alfalfa, for a living?
3. For first year farmers who do not have a planting history, will they receive prevented planting payment? These farmers are less likely to be financially able to subsist through a prevented planting year without full compensation.

Your experience and knowledge are extremely valuable to me as I continue to guide farmers through this difficult planting season. I would also like to extend an invitation for you and Secretary Perdue to visit the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio to survey the agricultural

situation and hear from impacted producers. Thank you again for your consideration in this matter and look forward to continuing to work with USDA as we navigate the severe agriculture situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Latta". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent "R" at the beginning.

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1280 Maryland Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20250