



March 7, 2017

The Honorable Austin Scott, Chair  
Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges,  
Energy and Credit  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges,  
Energy and Credit  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Scott:

Thank you for holding this important Farm Bill hearing on rural development and energy programs.

As you know, the health and success of our country's rural communities depends heavily on infrastructure. And while these infrastructure needs vary widely across the country, they often differ from those of urban areas.

Highways, bridges, dams, locks and harbors often capture news headlines but many communities face even more basic needs such as access to clean drinking water and affordable, reliable power. Communities looking to persuade future generations to stay and businesses to invest require broadband access.

On February 22, 2017, more than 200 organizations representing U.S. agricultural producers, rural businesses, rural communities and rural families wrote to President Donald J. Trump asking for support for rebuilding rural infrastructure.

As you prepare the official record for the March 9, 2017 hearing, we would appreciate the inclusion of this letter into the record and, more importantly, your support for the infrastructure needs of rural America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Todd Van Hoose".

Todd Van Hoose  
President and CEO

CC: K. Michael Conway, Committee Chairman  
Collin C. Peterson, Committee Ranking Member