

Agricultural Policy & Legislative Affairs Committee

Report to the NGFA Board of Directors

March 2025

I. Key Issues

- Continue to execute a strategy to achieve NGFA's farm bill priorities – especially prioritizing working lands conservation programs, reducing the amount of prime farmland in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), increasing funding for market access and foreign market development programs, and strengthening crop insurance as a risk management tool for farmer customers.
- Monitor Congressional activity for other opportunities and challenges for the grain handling industry, and when appropriate develop and execute a strategy to defend or promote the industry.
- Delivering NGFA's policy messages to U.S. congressional offices and federal agencies as part of NGFA's summer fly-in.

II. Committee Activities

- A. Farm Bill:** The 2018 Farm Bill was extended to September 30, 2025 in December, 2024, as part of the American Relief Act of 2025. House Ag Committee Glenn "GT" Thompson plans to pass a new stand-alone Farm Bill that largely resembles the bill the committee passed in May 2024. With the Senate now controlled by Republicans, agreeing on the policy should be easier, but Congress will likely struggle to come up with the funding mechanisms, due to possible cuts to the USDA budget that Congress has proposed to pay for Reconciliation.
- B. Reconciliation:** The House and Senate have released their own budget proposals, which will open the reconciliation process. There is a lot of daylight between the proposals. The House version proposes \$230 billion in cuts to USDA over 10 years. There is concern that if these cuts are included in reconciliation the committee will need to find additional offsets to fund a Farm Bill. The Senate version calls for \$1 billion in cuts to the USDA budget. However, the Senate plan is to advance its current proposal as a vehicle for defense, immigration, and border security spending before considering tax reform separately.
- C. Summer Fly-in:** The NGFA Summer Fly-In will be held June 2-5, 2025. Attendees will meet with elected officials to lobby on policies of critical importance to the industry.

III. Issues for Discussion

- **Solar Panels:** There is increasing discussion among industry and lawmakers about the prevalence of solar panels on prime farmland. Should NGFA incorporate policies opposing tax incentives for solar panels into its Farm Bill priorities? What other policies could NGFA support in this space?