



National Grain and Feed Association

www.ngfa.org | ngfa@ngfa.org

December 16, 2015

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), whose members consist of more than 1,050 grain, feed, processing and exporting companies that handle upwards of 70 percent of the U.S. grain and oilseed crop, urges you to support enactment of H.R. 2029, the FY 2016 Omnibus legislation, as well as the “Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act” amendment, which includes vital tax-extender provisions.

As you know, a vote on the “Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act” amendment is expected to be considered in the House on December 17. This amendment would permanently extend Section 179 property deductions at \$500,000 instead of the current \$25,000 level. This amendment also extends the 50 percent bonus depreciation for five years. Both of these provisions promote business certainty and economic growth, especially in the agricultural sector. **NGFA supports this amendment and asks that you vote “yes” when it is considered on Thursday, December 17.**

NGFA also supports the fiscal year 2016 Omnibus legislation, H.R. 2029 and urges you to vote “yes” when it is considered on December 18. While NGFA prefers that each appropriations bill be considered individually and on-time, H.R. 2029 will provide certainty in funding the functions of the federal government, including vital agriculture and transportation programs.

NGFA in particular commends the bill’s inclusion of language repealing mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for beef and pork. Failure to do so would result in more than \$1 billion of burdensome and costly World Trade Organization-authorized tariffs by Canada and Mexico on a plethora of U.S. agricultural products. NGFA also strongly supports H.R. 2029’s increased funding for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and the Operations and Maintenance account of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While we support passage of H.R. 2029, NGFA is disappointed that the bill does not include federal pre-emption language regarding labeling of food and feed containing genetically modified organisms. We appreciate the House’s leadership on this issue and its recognition that a patchwork of differing state labeling laws would be nonsensical and economically damaging to U.S. consumers. We urge lawmakers to address this issue as a top priority when reconvening in January.

Again, we urge your support for passage of the “Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act” amendment, and H.R. 2029, the fiscal year 2016 Omnibus legislation, and appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall C. Gordon".

Randall C. Gordon
President