

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1317**

October 27, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

It has come to my attention that the "Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015" contains a provision that violates our pledge not to reopen the 2014 Farm Bill and would inflict serious injury on America's farmers and ranchers at a time when net farm income is projected to be down by 53 percent over the past two years.

Section 201 of the bill is widely expected to end Federal Crop Insurance, which is critical to producers and lenders alike.

Specifically, the provision proposes to reduce rates of return to crop insurance companies from a gross of about 14.5 percent down to a gross of 8.9 percent. However, this does not tell the real story. Since 2011 actual returns to companies have averaged about 5 percent, and factoring in costs, the average returns are much closer to zero. The reduction contained in section 201 would kill private sector delivery which is responsible for the success of Federal Crop Insurance.

Not even two years have passed since we made a commitment with the passage of a bipartisan 5-year farm bill that included \$23 billion in savings. The current Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015 breaks that promise.

Nobody consulted the Agriculture Committees of Congress when this provision was included in the bill, the details of which were not posted until the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 27. Instead, a reckless provision of devastating consequences was quite literally inserted in a backroom in the middle of the night.

I urge you to stand up for farmers and America's agricultural economy by removing this provision from the bill.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress