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August 12, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of West Texas - the Food, Fuel, and Fiber Capital of the World - I commend your effective leadership and strong vision for the future of American agriculture. Under your leadership, producers are swiftly receiving needed financial support, increased foreign market access for American commodities, and the largest farm safety net investment in two decades.

As you know, cotton producers across the country, including Texas's 19th Congressional District – the largest cotton-producing district in the country – have faced years of severe drought, skyrocketing input costs, and suppressed cotton prices. These poor economic and weather conditions have resulted in historic losses for cotton farmers and even discouraged production outright.

Thankfully, a new risk-management pilot program proposal can help alleviate some of the pain felt by cotton farmers over the past few years and incentivize increased production. The Harvest Cost Endorsement (HCE), which was developed by cotton farmers, is an innovative risk management tool with strong support throughout the entire cotton supply chain. This proposal would allow cotton producers to purchase additional coverage on existing policies and receive an indemnity payment if their annual production falls significantly below their Actual Production History (APH).

Importantly, this pilot program would require cotton farmers to bring their crop to harvest to receive an indemnity payment, providing the entire cotton supply chain – including ginners, shippers, and warehouses – more certainty regarding the quantity of available cotton in the marketplace. This incentive to harvest cotton would likely reduce federal indemnity payments since the insurance product makes it more economically feasible for a producer to take a crop to harvest that traditionally would have been abandoned early in the season or pre-harvest.

This thoughtful and innovative pilot program will provide a significant boost to cotton farmers and provide much-needed supply chain certainty. I strongly support the HCE and urge USDA's Risk Management Agency to consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Arrington', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress