Agriculture Committee Member's Day Remarks:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Republican Leader Thompson for holding this hearing today and giving Members like myself a chance to have their voices heard.

As you all may know, agriculture issues are a top priority for me and my constituents, as I represent the number one agriculture district in Texas, and the sixth overall agriculture district in the United States.

Texas's 13th Congressional District is a top producer of cattle, cotton, wheat, dairy, and much more, and I could not be prouder to speak to you on behalf of the farmers and ranchers who make that possible.

Unfortunately, these hard-working Americans have battled numerous hardships over the past few years due to market turmoil, disruptions caused by COVID-19, and, most recently, disastrous weather events like the polar vortex which struck Texas earlier this year.

In an effort to help farmers to recover from these natural disasters, I introduced H.R. 1692, the RESTORE Act, with my friend and colleague, Representative Henry Cuellar.

This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP) for 2020 and 2021, and it would expand the program to cover crop losses due to freezes and polar vortexes.

This bill would also increase coverage for droughts to ensure that all droughts are covered as natural disasters under the WHIP Program, a provision that will immensely help cotton producers across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I come before the Committee today to urge consideration of the RESTORE Act, to help extend a valuable lifeline for the men and women who tirelessly work to feed our great nation.

This is an excellent opportunity to foster bipartisanship and to support our farmers throughout this tumultuous time.

Conclusion:

Thank you again for holding this hearing and for allowing me to present this legislation before the Committee.

I look forward to working with each of you on these issues in a bipartisan and effective manner.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.