

Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I want to start by expressing my appreciation for the Subcommittee's consistent support for rural America. By prioritizing conservation, infrastructure, and research in small towns like the ones I represent, we shape the stability of food supply chains, embolden manufacturers to innovate, and strategically bolster our nation's independence.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I was proud to support market expansion and supply chain protections for American farm goods through the Farm, Food, and National Security Act. Notably, this Farm Bill doubles investment in trade facilitation and market development programs for U.S.-grown products.

While trade facilitation is a key element to healthy demand for farm goods, stable domestic markets are equally essential. By generating demand within our nation's borders, we decouple our industries from reliance on foreign counterparts and guard them from global market disruption. That is precisely why I supported modernizing the BioPreferred Program through the 2026 Farm Bill.

The BioPreferred Program is a novel market generator for U.S. agricultural feedstocks. By facilitating cost-effective Federal purchases, the BioPreferred label has spurred private-sector investment into a vibrant biobased economy. In Indiana alone, the biobased products industry supports over 100,000 jobs and more than \$7 billion in economic activity. This industry employs nearly 4 million Americans nationwide and contributes \$489 billion to the U.S. economy. These are good-paying jobs in rural communities—jobs in processing, manufacturing, logistics, and innovation—that depend on strong demand for American-grown inputs. I thank the Subcommittee for its attention to this vital program and encourage continued hearty investment in this commonsense initiative.

Before I conclude, I want to request that the Subcommittee also support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics – or CVB. CVB serves as the door between animal drug and vaccine manufacturers and the market. CVB's regulatory work protects over 71.5 million food animals from disease across the state of Indiana. However, due to a surge in foreign animal disease and a shortage of credentialed staff, review times for veterinary biologics are stretching on far too long. As innovative new technologies wait on the shelf for review, our farms remain exposed to bird flu, avian metapneumovirus, African swine fever, and other dangerous illnesses.

The Hoosier state produces 20 million turkeys and just under 4.5 million hogs each year, generating about \$20 billion in economic impact. That is what is at stake - just in Indiana - if we do not fully support our livestock farms with the biologics they need to protect our food supply.

As the subcommittee develops their draft for fiscal year 2027, I urge the inclusion of full funding for CVB and robust support for the BioPreferred Program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee to advance investments in rural America and U.S. agriculture.