

**Statement on Budget Views and Estimates before the House
Committee on the Budget**

Rep. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture March 6, 2019

Thank you Chairman Yarmuth and Ranking Member Womack for the opportunity to be with you today and to address the funding priorities of the House Agriculture Committee for fiscal year 2020.

The Committee succeeded in passing the 2018 Farm Bill in the waning days of the last Congress.

Together with our Republican colleagues, we worked extremely hard to make sure every program contained in this bill was an effective, transparent, and fiscally-responsible mechanism to improve the lives of all Americans.

The bill was budget neutral, and it passed with overwhelming and historic bipartisan support.

In the House, more Members voted for the 2018 Farm Bill than have ever voted for a farm bill in history.

What we did in that legislation was done thoughtfully and with input from stakeholders across the country.

As the Budget Committee is aware, the 2018 Farm Bill directs USDA to implement a broad range of programs that deal with the process of producing food, fiber, and fuel across America.

Those programs include critical nutrition assistance for working families; new tools to prevent animal diseases; improved risk management for farmers; conservation and renewable energy incentives; forest management tools; foreign market development assistance; research into emerging crops like hemp; resources for young, veteran and underserved producers; support to combat opioid addiction and provide rural mental health services; and investment in academic research and innovation at our 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant universities.

Simply put, this bill contains programs that directly and indirectly serve every single American.

These programs are critical, given the various situations so many in our agriculture industry face.

Whether that's a challenge from volatile weather and potential livestock and plant pest and disease or falling farm income due to trade disputes, the farm bill helps families in those rural communities deal with the adverse conditions facing them.

I urge you to acknowledge the seriousness of these challenges and through your process, maintain the fiscal commitments we've made to fighting them through the farm bill in the coming year.

Thank you and I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.