



Office of the Under Secretary
for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Washington, D.C. 20250

May 16, 2025

THE HONORABLE CHRIS PAPPAS
U.S. House of Representatives
452 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pappas,

Thank you for your letter sent on March 28, 2025, regarding paused funding disbursements for the Acer Access and Development grant program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shares your commitment to maple producers. Part of the transition in administration is reviewing contracts, personnel, and spending at the Department. For perspective, USDA's current budget is \$230 billion dollars—and only a small fraction of that goes to our farmers. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

I realize this review process has caused concern among some who participate in longstanding USDA farm programs. I am pleased to report that the Acer Access and Development grant program has been released. We have also recently released funds for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program, Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative, and the Land-Grant University Capacity grants. As of March 12, 2025, we have also released funds for the Agricultural Marketing Service's statutory grant programs including the Federal State Marketing Improvement program (FSMIP), Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBI), Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG), Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP), Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP), Regional Food Systems Partnerships (RFSP), Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBPG), Micro Grants for Food Security, and Sheep Production and Marketing Grant.

Secretary Brooke Rollins will continue to root out wasteful programs - especially ones that focus more on special agendas rather than doing what's best for farmers. Simply rubberstamping the policies of the previous administration would do farmers a disservice. You have USDA's commitment to ensure those programs are focused on making American agriculture the most competitive in the world.

If you have further questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Stump", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

LAUREN STUMP, DVM
Deputy Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs