

## AAM Update 11-21

Here we are heading into Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years as we watch 2021 in our rearview mirrors. Cotton harvest is getting in full swing and corn, soybean and peanut harvest is finishing for many. For producers, it has been hard finding parts and tires because of the supply chain problems, which meant farmers had to travel more miles to find what you needed. AAM has for many years said, we need 'Made in the USA' that by outsourcing production we were setting up the stage for big problems.

I was beginning to think that there would be no bipartisan legislation going to pass this Congress, but I was wrong. The House finally passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. Farm groups across the country are praising passage because of the many items included that will help producers and rural communities.

\$110 billion for roads, bridges, locks, and dams as well as port expansion and improvements.

\$66 billion for rail expansion and improvements

\$73 billion for the electric grid

\$55 billion for water infrastructure

\$65 billion for broadband

So many producers are captive shippers that have to pay what rate is quoted to move their production to market. So, improving rail, barge and highways will help farmers and ranchers.

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced to curb abuse in the national checkoff programs, S 2861 and S 2860 would make all checkoff programs voluntary. Checkoff reform has long been supported by AAM because producers should not have to pay a mandatory government-imposed tax if they do not agree with how the money is being spent.

There's also bipartisan legislation S 2716 which would restore Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling. Labeling imports as to the country of origin was one of AAM's founding principals in 1977. We urge you to contact your Members of Congress and urge support for these bills. You can use your browser and type in congress.gov when you get to the site it will have a line that asks for the bill number, enter it and you can see the bill as well as who has cosponsored it.

American Agriculture Movement Annual Meeting

Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2022

MCM Elegante Hotel

801 Ave Q, Lubbock, Texas

Call 806-763-1200 and ask for AAM's room block

Room rate \$91 per night so call and make you reservation now.

We have a great program planned for you and your family. Friday morning Bill Bullard, the head of R-Calf will be our quest speaker and Saturday nights chuckwagon meal, former Congressman Charlie Stenholm will be joining us.

It will be a great weekend with your AAM family.

David Senter AAM President