

MEDIA RELEASE

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Re: Lubbock Chamber Applauds 2018 Farm Bill Passage

LUBBOCK, Texas – Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Chairman Cory Powell responds in a statement below regarding the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Cory Powell, Lubbock Chamber Chairman:

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce applauds the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate for passing the 2018 Farm Bill, formally titled the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The Chamber appreciates House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, Congressman Jodey Arrington, Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz for their hard work on the Farm Bill and congratulates area farm organizations on its passage.

The final bill is a bipartisan effort that will strengthen farm economies that have been stuck in a recession for five years. The increased safety net for a variety of crops will create more certainty for producers in the marketplace. The Chamber is also encouraged by the bill's expanded support for family farms.

The Farm Bill goes beyond agriculture policy and addresses other important matters for rural business communities, including increased access to high-speed internet, skills training, and rural entrepreneurship.

Nationwide, 16 million jobs power the food and farm economy, and in the Lubbock area, it makes up 33 percent of the total area economy. Sound farm policy ensures American agriculture remains viable and U.S. consumers continue to have stable and abundant food and fiber production, and also ensures that the Lubbock-area economy continues to grow.

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents almost 1,900 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. Since 1913 the Chamber, as a catalyst for business growth; a convener of leaders and influencers; and a champion for a stronger community, has served as a unified voice of business by actively advocating for a pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-business climate.

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