

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Austin Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Scott:

AmericanHort would like to express our support of H.R. 1673, the Agricultural Trucking Relief Act of 2019.

As the national trade organization representing the horticulture industry, AmericanHort represents and supports over 14,000 member and affiliated businesses that include plant breeders, greenhouse and nursery crop farmers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, and researchers. Our industry accounts for almost \$200 billion in total industry economic output, while directly supporting 1.6 million full- and part-time jobs.

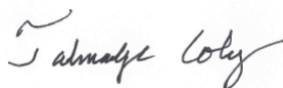
Your legislation clarifies the definition of what is considered an “agricultural commodity” as it relates to transportation — a distinction that is critically needed in 2019. The bill states that an agricultural commodity includes “agricultural, aquacultural, horticultural, and floricultural commodities, fruits, vegetables, and any non-human living animal and the products thereof; and other agriculture products that are – sensitive to temperature or climate; and at risk of perishing in transit.”

This added explicitness to the agricultural commodity definition is vital for efforts to comply with transportation regulations, which is essential for those transporting agricultural commodities as well as those enforcing these rules.

Our nation’s farmers and growers are the backbone of this country. It is highly frustrating to our members that their commodities are considered agriculture when they are planted, qualify and participate in agricultural labor programs to grow and harvest them, are taxed as agriculture, are classified in numerous federal areas as agriculture, yet once they are placed on a truck, it then becomes uncertain if these crops are still considered agriculture. Situations such as these exemplify businessowners’ angst while trying to earn a living under the current regulatory state, and the Agricultural Trucking Relief Act helps mitigate that angst — properly classifying our products from the beginning to the end.

Thank you for your efforts to support the horticulture industry.

Sincerely,



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