



**National Grain
and Feed Association**

www.ngfa.org | ngfa@ngfa.org



November 30, 2020

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

On behalf of the thousands of members and facilities our Association's represent in the grain, feed, grain processing and export sector, we strongly support and urge prompt enactment of S. 4054, the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

First signed into law in 1916, the U.S. Grain Standards Act benefits the entire agricultural value chain. Stakeholders – ranging from producers to grain handlers and processors to end-users and consumers – benefit when the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) and its delegated and designated state and private agencies provide state-of-the-art, market-responsive Official inspection and weighing of bulk grains and oilseeds, and do so in a reliable, uninterrupted, consistent and cost-effective manner.

Congress periodically reauthorizes this legislation to maintain and further enhance America's Official grain inspection and weighing system. Currently, two provisions of the underlying law are set to expire after December 11, 2020, which could prove disruptive to the official grain inspection and weighing program. S. 4054, which unanimously passed the Senate on November 16, 2020 would reauthorize all expiring provisions of the current law for another five years and includes a number of improvements to the official inspection and weighing system to deliver more transparency, information-sharing and better data:

- **Requiring Delegated States to notify users of Official inspection or weighing services at least 72 hours in advance of any intent to discontinue service:** The 2015 reauthorization of the USGSA required the Delegated states to provide such pre-notification to the Secretary of Agriculture, and USGSRA 2020 extends this same requirement to the direct users of Official services that would be most affected by such actions so they can make appropriate plans.
- **Ensuring FGIS user fees are directed solely to inspection and weighing services:** The user fees that grain handlers pay for inspection and weighing services should be directed only toward those activities. We appreciate Congress consistently appropriating funds for establishing and maintaining the U.S Grain Standards, as well as for internal monitoring of FGIS' grain quality-assessment methods and compliance activities – all of which have broad societal benefits.
- **Reporting requests for waivers, exceptions and other specific services received and granted by FGIS:** This information-sharing will increase transparency and help users better understand the demands on the Official system, which will be beneficial especially for those that pay the user fees that finance the system.

- **Reauthorizing the USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee:** This advisory committee provides expert advice to FGIS in helping the agency fulfill its core mission of ensuring that Official inspections are performed in a reliable and uninterrupted manner to facilitate U.S. grain exports.
- **Directing FGIS to complete a comprehensive review of the current boundaries for the officially designated grain inspection agencies in the domestic marketplace:** Such a comprehensive review has not occurred since FGIS was established in 1976, and the resulting data will inform the agency and stakeholders about potential efficiencies and improvements to the system.

Again, to promote certainty, to prevent the expiration of provisions of the underlying U.S. Grain Standards Act, and to deliver more transparency, information-sharing and better data within the official inspection and weighing system, we urge the House to approve S. 4054 as soon as possible. Thank you for your leadership and consideration on this important policy matter.

Sincerely,

National Grain and Feed Association
 North American Export Grain Association
 Agribusiness Association of Iowa
 Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
 Kansas Grain and Feed Association
 Michigan Agri-Business Association
 Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
 Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
 North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
 Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
 Ohio AgriBusiness Association
 Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association
 South Dakota Grain & Feed Association
 Texas Grain and Feed Association
 Wisconsin Agri-Business Association