



April 17, 2024

Honorable Austin Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Scott and Panetta:

On behalf of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA),¹ we wish to express our support for the Ensuring Access to Risk Management Act of 2024. This bill would provide an inflation adjustment for crop insurance agents, as well as relief for specialty crops.

Independent insurance agents play a crucial role guiding farmers through the process of purchasing crop insurance to ensure they have the protection they need. Unfortunately, the role of independent insurance agents in delivering this highly technical program to farmers has been increasingly undervalued over the past several years leading to difficult times for agents throughout the country.

Specifically, the 2011 Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA), which is the contract between the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) and crop insurers, or Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), established a cap on the administrative and operating (A&O) expense subsidy in most instances. From 2011 through 2015, RMA annually adjusted the total A&O subsidy cap to keep pace with inflation. However, beginning in 2016, RMA stopped making inflation adjustments, leaving its value fixed in 2015 dollars, where it remains today. Despite efforts by Congress to have the RMA reinstate the inflation adjustment, the agency has declined to do so through regulatory means.

Your bill will right this wrong for crop agents throughout the country by providing the inflation adjustment that had previously been in place once again.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jon Gentile
Chief Public Affairs & Advocacy Officer
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents

¹ PIA is a national trade association whose members are independent insurance agents in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Its insurance professionals offer insurance products and services across America.