



**RUSSELL W. BOENING**  
President

**MARK DANIEL**  
Vice President

**J. WALT HAGOOD**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**PAT D. MCDOWELL**  
Shamrock

**J. WALT HAGOOD**  
Wolfforth

**MARK DANIEL**  
Seymour

**JOHN PAUL DINEEN, III**  
Waxahachie

**KEVIN WILKERSON**  
Mabank

**WARREN CUDE**  
Fort Stockton

**SAM SNYDER**  
Moran

**MICKEY EDWARDS**  
Lampasas

**JOHN K. GRIFFITH**  
Alto

**PETE J. PAWELEK**  
Poteet

**ALLEN KAMINSKI**  
Sealy

**BRIAN ADAMEK**  
Victoria

**SCOTT FRAZIER**  
Chapman Ranch

November 18, 2021

The Honorable  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear U.S. Representative:

On behalf of Texas Farm Bureau, I write to urge you to oppose the Build Back Better Act. While we appreciate Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle for working to address various proposals harmful to agriculture, items in direct opposition to our policy remain in the legislation.

Inflation is driving up the cost of fertilizer, chemicals, parts, equipment, feed and other items necessary to operate farms and ranches. The supply chain breakdown is also making it extremely difficult to obtain these products. Further, federal policies have significantly raised energy prices, leading to higher costs for not only farm and ranch families, but also consumers.

As farmers and ranchers face challenges, leaders in Washington, D.C. should be working to find commonsense solutions to get our economy back on track. Instead, the Build Back Better Act includes a methane tax on oil and gas that will only drive-up fuel and fertilizer costs on the farm, making it extremely difficult to continue operating.

The legislation also seeks to raise revenue by increasing fines and penalties as much as ten times their current amount for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA). TFB does not condone bad actors when it comes to appropriately managing safety, however, fines associated with OSHA, FLSA, or MSPA violations should not be determined based on their ability to serve as revenue raisers in a partisan legislative process. If enacted, these provisions could put well-meaning farmers and ranchers, who have the utmost care for their employees, out of business.

While TFB recognizes the reconciliation package includes some provisions that would benefit agriculture, the bill does not spend one cent on the actual farm safety-net. As farm and ranch families worry about extremely high input costs, supply chain issues, and uncertain market prices, the absence of funding for production agriculture is concerning. Additionally, the unprecedented amount of spending and tax increases required to try to pay for the plan far outweigh the benefits for rural Texas.

The process in which this bill was compiled is also troubling. The agricultural community and committees of jurisdiction in Congress have always worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft sound policy. Sadly, this has not been the case for the past year. The lack of transparency and fact that billions of dollars in the reconciliation package were not even discussed by committees of jurisdiction is concerning. This is simply not the way to govern.

As farm and ranch families across the nation work to recover from the pandemic and find ways to navigate challenges with inflation, supply chain issues, volatile market prices, and other obstacles, Texas Farm Bureau must oppose the Build Back Better Act in its current form. We respectfully request you oppose the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell W. Boening". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "O" at the end.

Russell W. Boening  
President

RWB:LA:amd