

# Southern Cotton Growers, Inc

Alabama-Florida-Georgia-North Carolina-South Carolina-Virginia  
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May 16, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig,

Southern Cotton Growers (SCG) applauds U.S. House Agriculture Committee for passing the committee's portion of H. Con. Resolution 14 Title 2001(b)(1), the U.S. House Agriculture Committee budget legislation focusing on Investment in Rural America. SCG's members are cotton producers operating diversified operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The Committee has included important provisions in the commodity, conservation, crop insurance and trade titles that were requested by the cotton industry and are particularly important to the future prosperity of the Southeast industry. Producers need certainty and predictability in farm policy rather than continued extensions of outdated provisions that necessitate ad hoc assistance.

Since the 2018 Farm Bill was enacted, substantial increases in input costs and higher interest rates on equipment and operating loans, combined with lower market prices, have contributed to income losses for many cotton operations in the last several years. By the end of 2024, farm debt reached its highest level in more than 50 years. The Agriculture and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M has stated in the 42 years of projecting farm financial performance, the most recent crop outlook for their representative farms is experiencing the worst economic times and projected to not have a positive cash flow over the next 5 years.

Southeast cotton industry is facing many challenges, from maintaining production acres, as well as a strong domestic market and foreign market access. Numerous data sources indicate Southeast cotton plantings to be down 20% or greater in 2025, leading reduction of cotton acres belt wide. The cotton industry relies on an extensive infrastructure and supply chain that when disrupted is rarely rebuilt. Prior experience confirms reduction in US cotton production will be permanently replaced by foreign production which is often subsidized. This means lost jobs and tax base for rural communities.

SCG looks forward to continuing to work with Chairman Thompson and the members of the Committee and urges the House to complete work on the Budget Reconciliation package with the inclusion of these important commodity, conservation, crop insurance and trade provisions.

Best regards,



Philip Edwards

President

Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.