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General Comment

Agriculture Trade Promotion Program

Commodity prices for farmers and other members in the industry are very poor right now. The cost to produce a crop is lower than the revenue that is received. It was just six years ago when we had the best corn and soybean prices we had ever seen. Now in the last few years prices have gotten very low, to be very difficult to be above the cost of production. This has led to the CCC or commodity credit corporation issuing a new regulation to implement the ATP or agricultural trade promotion program. This will aid US agriculture industries to conduct activities, that will promote US agriculture commodities in foreign markets for commodities. This is just what we need right now with our very low prices. With the negative affected market, they can help markets find a fair market that will improve. This can help us get the market back to where it should be, to help trade continue and allow industries to grow.

Earlier this year the imposition of tariffs by other counties on U.S products is what really brought the price of soybeans down. This was so low it led to a government funding to help farmers out, by paying them so much per bushel on top of the low price they were receiving. It still is not the price that the farmers need to be coming out high enough. This is really hurting many businesses in the industry by putting them in a financial crisis. With the authority of the CCC they can really help improve this situation by improving the market. They have the authority to aid in the development of foreign markets with agriculture commodities. They can provide market promotion to help many industries.

To improve this market, we will have to increase exports to increase the price of commodities and products. They will be able to do this by ATP funding. This will be very beneficial for the agriculture industry. The main purpose of ATP funding is to help by supporting nonprofit U.S. Agriculture producers that do foreign market development activities and have suffered damages from the tariffs that were imposed on U.S products. The main purpose is to improve the negative impacts of the recent trade actions that have taken place, like the tariffs. They are here to help these organizations adjust to changes in this export market. They are here to help the producers find a market to sell their product. This is a really good program to help many farmers. Many farmers are going out of business and cannot continue to live on the low income they are making. If this continues many farms will disappear, and many full-time farms will not be around. It will hurt many farmers and grain industries around the country. The ATP participants can receive assistance for generic or branded promotion activities and even the to address existing non-tariff barriers to trade. They can provide support in ways of reimbursing any way to help trade for producers. Through this program it will help many producers and help improve the market.