

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2026

Members of the Committee,

I'm pleased to submit this letter as testimony for the Member Day hearing regarding member priorities for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027.

As you consider legislation to bolster our national security against foreign adversaries, I respectfully request the inclusion of the text of H.R. 1713, the Agricultural Risk Review Act of 2025. If enacted, this text would make permanent existing policy enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Acts for the past three Fiscal Years and bolster our security against foreign adversaries. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1713 unanimously under suspension of the rules on June 23, 2025.

This text amends the Defense Production Act to add the Secretary of Agriculture as a permanent member to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, for any transactions related to the purchase of farmland, biotechnology, or any other transaction related to the agriculture industry. It also requires CFIUS to consider referrals from the Department of Agriculture for reportable agricultural land transactions prior to the interagency process that determines whether a review of the transaction is warranted. These are common sense measures in line with existing practices and current law.

CFIUS' mandate is to review transactions involving foreign investment in the United States to ensure such transactions do not threaten our national security. Agriculture is too important to our country's national security to be left out. Our geopolitical adversaries are eager to exploit vulnerabilities in critical supply chains, such as our food supply. The inclusion of the Secretary of Agriculture in reviews of ag-related transactions is essential for our nation's security.

Further, the Departments of Agriculture and Treasury recognize the need for the Secretary's permanent inclusion on CFIUS. The two Departments signed a Memo of Understanding on July 8, 2025, which memorializes and further cements the Secretary's position within CFIUS.

The text directs CFIUS, under the direction of the Department of Treasury, and is thus well within the scope of FY27 NDAA's intentions. Previous NDAA's routinely recognize and authorize these agencies to participate in the defense of our national security, and as such, the text is appropriately suited for inclusion in this year's legislation.

Though I'm grateful this language was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026, we must cement this policy in permanent law. The unanimous support from the House this past June demonstrates the urgency and need for the provision.

This amendment recognizes and supports the long-held understanding that food supply is a critical component of U.S. national security. I respectfully request that the Committee include H.R. 1713 in the FY27 NDAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank D. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress