

December 5, 2022

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Hoyer:

Founded in 1896, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA or the Big “I”) is the nation’s oldest and largest association of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing more than 25,000 agency locations, 50 state associations and numerous city/county associations under the Trusted Choice brand. Trusted Choice independent agents offer consumers all types of insurance—property, casualty, life, crop, health, employee benefit plans and retirement products—from a variety of insurance companies.

The Big “I” is writing to urge your continued support of crop insurance agents and the critical role they play in the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP). Crop agents across the country work tirelessly to deliver and service crop insurance policies for farmers and are at the heart of the farming community.

In 2011, the Standard Reinsurance Agreement, the agreement between Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), created a cap on administrative and operating (A&O) expenses. While the Risk Management Agency (RMA) adjusted the A&O cap to track inflation between 2011 and 2015, RMA halted this practice in 2016. Unfortunately, due to both the stopping of this practice and other unexpected consequences of the original cap, the A&O expense for specialty crops has seen a drastic cut of almost 40% across the country which has significantly hurt crop insurance agents.

To remedy this and provide relief to crop agents and farm communities, the Big “I” urges you to support an A&O expense fix in any year end spending package. Specifically, we ask you to support report language in the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill that reconfirms RMA does indeed have the authority to implement annual A&O inflation adjustments as well as language in the House Agriculture Appropriations bill that would provide one year of equitable relief for specialty crops.

Again, on behalf of Big “I” members thank you for protecting our farming communities and the crop insurance agents that serve them.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Symington, Jr.
IIABA Executive Vice President



Nathan M. Riedel
IIABA Vice President, Political Affairs

