

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 220250-0003

RE: State of Alabama 2015 Disaster Declaration Request

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to request your urgent assistance on behalf of all Alabama agricultural producers. As a result of, which as you know included significant rainfall, wind and flooding, a large number of Alabama agricultural producers have experienced significant losses, particularly in southeastern Alabama.

The significant amount of rainfall during the harvest period has negatively impacted the following commodities, but not limited to: cotton, peanuts, pecans, soybeans and sweet potatoes. All of this damage will result in a loss of income to Alabama's agricultural industry.

I respectfully ask for your assistance in declaring the following southeastern Alabama counties as an agricultural disaster area:

Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Escambia,
Geneva, Henry, Houston, Macon, Pike and Russell.

Accordingly, I request that you instruct Mr. Daniel Robinson, Director, of the USDA Alabama Farm Service Agency to proceed as quickly as possible with a formal damage assessment of all counties in Alabama to determine the extent of agricultural losses to date and to provide you with an accurate assessment of the outlook for future losses. Also, I request the maximum assistance to the state in regards to existing USDA/FSA programs such as ELAP, ECP, LIP, EFRP and LFDP.

I have absolute confidence that such an assessment will result in a finding that a disaster declaration would be appropriate in a majority of the requested counties. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bentley".

Robert Bentley
Governor

cc: John McMillan, Commissioner, Alabama Dept. Agriculture & Industries
Daniel Robinson, Director, Farm Service Agency