

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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 Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Craig:

I urge you to immediately advance and pass the *CHILE Act* to deliver urgently needed disaster assistance to specialty crop farmers in New Mexico and across the country. In late September, devastating floods swept through critical agricultural communities in my district, destroying crops and threatening the livelihoods of family farmers already struggling to stay afloat. New Mexico's specialty crop farmers represent the best of American agriculture, and Congress must act before these American farmers are forced out of business.

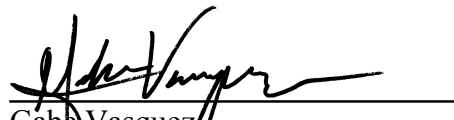
New Mexico is home to many specialty crops, including onion, pecan, and most famously, chile. These farmers were already operating on thin margins due to extreme heat, drought, crop disease, shrinking market access, and increased fertilizer, diesel, and other input costs. Adding insult to injury, the recent floodwaters swept mud and debris across fields, destroyed crops, damaged irrigation systems, and disrupted planting schedules. Some, including many of our world-renowned Hatch chile farmers, are at risk of losing their entire harvest, while others lost critical infrastructure, including dams and wells.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not have a dedicated disaster assistance plan for specialty crop farmers, but Congress can pass a solution into law now. The *CHILE Act* would provide \$5 billion in direct assistance to specialty crop producers, require the Department of Agriculture to use the Specialty Crop Emergency Assistance Framework when providing direct assistance to specialty crop growers, and provide much-needed clarity on what qualifies as a specialty crop. Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to stand behind the farmers who feed America.

Across our country, specialty crop farmers grow the fruits, vegetables, and nuts that feed American families, support rural economies, and sustain thousands of agricultural jobs. In New Mexico, these growers are the backbone of our agricultural communities, supporting generations of family farms and businesses. When these farmers lose their crops, the impacts ripple through the entire food supply chain, hurting farmworkers, local businesses, and families who depend on a reliable supply of American-grown food. Without meaningful federal assistance, we risk losing family farms, weakening domestic food production, and becoming more dependent on foreign growers. Protecting our specialty crop farmers is not just an agricultural priority - it is a matter of food security and economic stability for the entire country.

I urge you to bring the *CHILE Act* forward for immediate consideration and passage. Every delay puts more family farms, agricultural jobs, and our domestic food supply at risk. I stand ready to work with you to get this critical legislation across the finish line.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress