

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We want to thank you for your commitment to America's agricultural industry. We remain committed to work alongside you and your administration to address the issues facing rural America and our agricultural producers.

On June 3, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the first domestic cases of *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, commonly known as the New World Screwworm (NWS).<sup>1</sup> The flesh-eating parasite poses a serious threat to livestock producers. This was proven in the 1950's and 1960's when NWS cost livestock producers historical losses of roughly \$20 million and \$100 million in southeastern and southwestern states, respectively.<sup>2</sup> This equates to roughly \$1.3 billion annually in modern cost estimates.

In the first 100 days of your second term in office, you and your cabinet members recognized the harmful impact NWS posed to U.S. livestock producers, and began working with Mexican counterparts to mitigate the threat.<sup>3</sup> This led to the historic investment of \$750 million to construct a fly sterilization facility at USDA's Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas.<sup>4</sup> Though the facility has immense promise to combat the growing presence and threat of NWS, there are some immediate actions that departments and agencies can be making to bolster the federal government's response. Therefore, we are asking you and your cabinet to prioritize an expedited and enhanced coordinated, whole-of-government strategy to combat NWS.

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<sup>1</sup> "USDA Confirms Presence of New World Screwworm in the United States," *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*, June 3, 2026, United States Department of Agriculture, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/usda-confirms-presence-new-world-screwworm-united-states>.

<sup>2</sup> James E Novy, "Screwworm Control and Eradication in the Southern United States of America," *Screwworm control and eradication in the Southern United States of America*, n.d., <https://www.fao.org/4/U4220T/U4220T0A.htm?>.

<sup>3</sup> "U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins Demands Mexico Cooperate to Protect U.S. Agricultural Products from Invasive Pests; Threatens Port Closures," *United States Department of Agriculture*, April 26, 2025, United States Department of Agriculture, <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/26/us-agriculture-secretary-brooke-rollins-demands-mexico-cooperate-protect-us-agricultural-products>.

<sup>4</sup> "USDA Announces Plans for Sterile Insect Production Facility," *Texas Farm Bureau*, August 19, 2025, Texas Farm Bureau, <https://texasfarmbureau.org/usda-announces-plans-for-sterile-insect-production-facility/>.

Several Secretaries within your Cabinet have taken action to mitigate the threat caused by NWS. Efforts include the establishment of the New World Screwworm Directorate by Secretary Rollins<sup>5</sup>, the Food and Drug Administration's approval of emergency authorized usage for veterinary treatment and prevention under Secretary Kennedy<sup>6</sup>, and, under the leadership of Secretary Hegseth, the Army Corps of Engineers' oversight on Moore Air Base's construction<sup>7</sup>. We appreciate the historic strides your Administration has made and ask that as more cases of NWS begin to be reported within the United States, your administration prioritizes a whole-of-government approach to finding additional, creative solutions to combat NWS. This comes at a time when states are stepping up to address the issue, such as the Governor of Texas' recent state-wide disaster declaration.<sup>8</sup>

As your partners in Congress, we stand ready to provide any resources necessary to support U.S. livestock producers and eradicate NWS. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to addressing this issue, together.

Sincerely,



Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

<sup>5</sup> USDA-APHIS, "USDA Update on Coordinated Federal Response to Protect United States from New World Screwworm," Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, n.d., <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/usda-update-coordinated-federal-response-protect-united-states-new-world>

<sup>6</sup> Center for Veterinary Medicine, "Animal Drugs for New World Screwworm," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, June 3, 2026, <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/animal-drugs-new-world-screwworm>.

<sup>7</sup> USDA, "USDA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Break Ground on New Texas Sterile Fly Production Facility," USDA, April 17, 2026, <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/04/17/usda-and-us-army-corps-engineers-break-ground-new-texas-sterile-fly-production-facility>.

<sup>8</sup> Greg Abbott, "Governor Abbott Issues New World Screwworm Disaster Proclamation in June 2026," *Office of the Texas Governor*, June 5, 2026, <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-new-world-screwworm-disaster-proclamation-in-june-2026>.

*Nathaniel Moran*

Nathaniel Moran  
Member of Congress

*Brian Babin*

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

*Jodey C. Arrington*

Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress

*Troy E. Nehls*

Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress

*Jake Ellzey*

Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress

*Wesley Hunt*

Wesley Hunt  
Member of Congress

*Michael T. McCaul*

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

*Morgan Luttrell*

Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress

*Lance Gooden*

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

*John R. Carter*

John R. Carter  
Member of Congress

*Ronny Jackson*

Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

*Roger Williams*

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

*August Pfluger*

August Pfluger  
Member of Congress

*Keith Self*

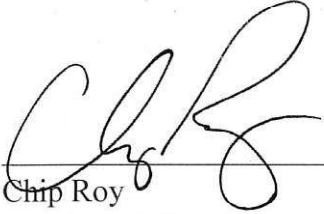
Keith Self  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Brandon Gill  
Member of Congress

Cc:

- The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
- The Honorable Pete Hegseth
- The Honorable Marco Rubio
- The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
- The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
- The Honorable Lee Zeldin