

LAUREN BOEBERT
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

1713 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4761
BOEBERT.HOUSE.GOV

June 16, 2026

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

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Robert Fenton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and Administrator Fenton,

We write to express serious concern regarding the severe drought conditions impacting sugarbeet producers across Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana, and to request prompt consideration of supplemental disaster assistance for Western Sugar Cooperative.

Western Sugar Cooperative is a grower-owned cooperative comprised of approximately 700 family farmers and has operated for more than a century. Cooperative members farm roughly 111,000 to 115,000 acres of sugarbeets across our four states and own the processing facilities that convert their crop into domestically produced sugar. Today, however, the Cooperative faces an unprecedented financial crisis resulting from the combined effects of the prolonged drought, extreme weather events, and a collapse in domestic sugar prices driven by heavily subsidized foreign imports.

Domestic sugar prices have fallen below the cost of production, forcing farmers to exhaust their equity and financial reserves simply to remain in operation. Even under favorable growing conditions, many producers are unable to recover their production costs. This market downturn has been compounded by severe drought conditions throughout much of the Cooperative's growing region.

Growers were hit by a winter of record-breaking heat, below-average precipitation, and exceptionally low irrigation water supplies. This has left fields across Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming with minimal soil moisture and inadequate water reserves. As a result, only 89,000 acres of sugarbeets were planted this season, while the remaining acreage was enrolled in prevented planting insurance programs. In-season precipitation has remained significantly below historical averages, with Nebraska and Colorado receiving only 36 percent and 40 percent, respectively, of their NOAA 30-year average precipitation levels.

While Montana entered the season with comparatively stronger irrigation supplies, growers there experienced four major spring freeze events and sustained high winds that destroyed 1,265 acres and forced approximately 25 percent of the remaining crop to be replanted at least once. These weather events have reduced production expectations substantially.

The financial impact on producers has also been severe. Sugarbeet production costs over \$1,500 per acre, yet the affected growers anticipate, at best, only \$400 per acre, leaving a shortfall of at least \$1,100 per acre. The compounding effects of the drought, crop losses, and depreciating market prices have left many producers in desperate financial situations.

The consequences of the failure of Western Sugar Cooperative would extend beyond individual farm operations. If the Cooperative is unable to continue operating, approximately 1,200 of our constituents would lose their well-paying jobs, four major sugar processing facilities would face closure, and rural communities across Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana would lose more than \$500 million in annual economic activity. Moreover, without relief, many growers may be unable to secure the operating loans necessary to plant a 2027 crop, placing the future of the Cooperative itself at risk.

Given these extraordinary circumstances, we respectfully urge USDA to explore all available avenues for supplemental disaster relief and emergency assistance for Western Sugar Cooperative growers. The combination of historic drought conditions, weather-related crop losses, and sustained market pressures has created a situation that threatens not only hundreds of family farms, but also critical agricultural processing infrastructure and rural economies across the region.

Protecting the viability of domestic sugar production and the communities that depend on it requires immediate attention to this worsening crisis. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

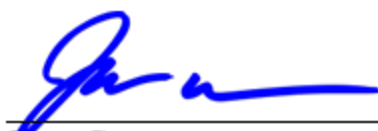

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress
Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



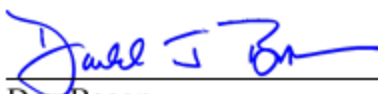
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



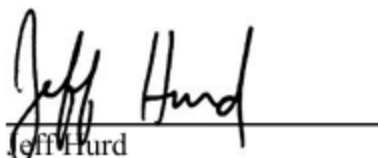
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Troy Downing
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress