

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 3
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
202 Harlow Street, Suite 20350
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 945-8000

BIDDEFORD
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005
(207) 352-5216

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

Alongside direct product purchases, the CFAP included \$16 billion for direct payments to farmers to assist with financial losses resulting from lost demand due to COVID-19 between January and May. It is my understanding that, under the initial details of CFAP, these payments will be coupled to actual production and based on actual losses agricultural producers experienced in response to price declines and supply chain disruptions. Farmers will need to be able to show a five percent price reduction from January through April 15th. How will the Department calculations measure the price loss for open market or contracted commodities that are not on an exchange? Having discussed the impact of COVID-19 with potato growers in Maine, our growers are seeing significant losses of sales of their products, but not necessarily lower prices of the product. I request that as the USDA finalizes details on the direct payments calculations, the Department prioritize the loss of sales in their calculations.

Under the 2018 Market Facilitation Program, the Department allowed producers to self-certify their 2018 production on USDA form CCC-910, Part C. I request that the Department use this option, or one that is similar, for the CFAP direct payment process. The Department should allow specialty crop producers to self-certify their economic injury and file those claims with FSA. The FSA County Committee can then validate each producer's claim, either before or after the payment is made.

Thank you for the work the Department has done thus far to help provide relief for farmers impacted by COVID-19. I ask that you give this request every appropriate consideration, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Cc: Russ Vought, Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought