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NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY / OPENING QUOTES

A nation that can grow its own food is more secure

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Michael Conaway 2015 (R-Texas) "Opening Statement: Chairman Conaway: American Agriculture & Our National Security" 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3005>

President George W. Bush eloquently summed it up when he said “We’re a blessed nation because we can grow our own food. A nation that can feed its people is a nation more secure.”

US Agriculture Status Quo is wonderful

Dr Tammy Beckham 2015 (DVM, Ph.D., Dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine) testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.4.15_beckham_testimony.pdf>

As I testify before you today, U.S. citizens reap the benefits of a robust agricultural industry that provides them with access to a safe, abundant and affordable food supply that is readily available on the shelves of grocery stores nationwide. This is indeed a privilege that as you well know, does not exist globally.

Food supply = National Security

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Michael Conaway 2015 (R-Texas ) "Opening Statement: Chairman Conaway: American Agriculture & Our National Security" 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3005>

Good morning, and welcome to today’s hearing. Many of you may be wondering why the Committee on Agriculture would be holding a hearing on national security. A former Chairman of this committee, the Honorable Kika de la Garza, would often tell a story when he asked: “How long can a nuclear submarine stay under water?” The simple answer, until it runs out of food.

MINOR REPAIRS

Minor Repair: Add more crops to the insurance program. Would reduce risk and promote innovation

Traci Bruckner 2016 (Senior Policy Associate, Center for Rural Affairs) 5 May 2016 “Ideas for Crop Insurance Reform” <http://www.cfra.org/news/160505/ideas-crop-insurance-reform>

The limited availability of insurance for alternative crops and livestock products discourages farmers from attempting to innovate and grow for emerging markets. Growing what is suited to the land and profitable locally helps reduce risk and increases income stability. Given that most lenders require farmers to have crop insurance to qualify for loans, if a farmer can obtain insurance they will have better access to credit and thus to new marketing opportunities. The creation of Whole Farm Revenue Protection in the 2014 Farm Bill is a step in the right direction, but there is more to be done. We will work to ensure crop insurance does not discourage entrepreneurial farming that seeks to create new market opportunities.

Minor Repair: 10% subsidy cut for revenue insurance. Would maintain the safety net and save $18 billion over 10 years

Alexis Taylor 2016 (Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services) Statement before the House Committee on Agriculture 18 March 2016 <http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/taylor.pdf>

The Farm Bill included several reforms to the Federal crop insurance program; however, there remain further opportunities for improvements and efficiencies. The President’s 2017 budget includes two proposals to reform crop insurance, which are expected to save $18 billion over 10 years. This includes reducing subsidies for revenue insurance that insure the price at the time of harvest by 10 percentage points and reforming prevented planting coverage. These reforms will make the program less costly to the taxpayer while still maintaining a quality safety net for farmers.

INHERENCY

Federal rules require soil conservation and anti-erosion practices as conditions of insurance

US Dept of Agriculture 2016 “CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE REQUIRED FOR USDA FARM PROGRAM BENEFITS AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PREMIUM SUBSIDIES” 17 Mar 2016 <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/13d8d4f>

As springtime approaches, the USDA reminds producers to keep conservation compliance in mind before making any major land use changes on their farming or ranching operations. Being out of compliance could put USDA conservation program benefits and federal crop insurance premium subsidies in jeopardy.  Conservation compliance refers to the USDA requirement that highly erodible land be farmed in a manner that minimizes soil erosion. This may include practicing no-till or planting cover crops.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

A/T “Rich get subsidies”

Those who produce the bulk of our food should get the bulk of the payments. It’s good for the public

*Dr. W. Robert Goodman 2015(retired extension agricultural economist at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an associate professor at Auburn Univ.)* 12 July 2015 WASHINGTON POST Should Washington End Agriculture Subsidies? <http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-washington-end-agriculture-subsidies-1436757020>

But to those who complain that farm subsidies go to big companies and millionaires, my question is this: Shouldn’t those who produce the bulk of our food receive the bulk of farm payments? The fact is, large, efficient farms benefit the public by producing food at a much lower cost than would otherwise be possible.

It helps all farmers, regardless of size

Jeremy Brown 2016 (*multi-generational Lubbock farmer who grows both conventional and organic cotton in west Texas. He is on the executive committee of Plains Cotton Growers and also grows wheat, rye and peanuts) May 2016 “*ICYMI: Farming needs strong policy and crop insurance” <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/icymi-farming-needs-strong-policy-and-crop-insurance/>

Another myth they spread is that crop insurance only helps big conventional farming operations when in fact it is a risk management tool that is available to all farmers regardless of operation, size, region or crop. I am a young farmer. I grow both conventional and organic cotton. Crop insurance is arguably more critical for me than it is for the long-established farmers, and I purchase a specialized and exceptionally valuable insurance policy for my organic crop.

Reasons Why Insurance Subsidies Needed

Crop insurance doesn’t guarantee profits: It allows market forces to work

Andrew Bowman 2015 (fifth-generation farmer from Oneida, Illinois) 18 May 2013 “Crop Insurance Keeps Rural America Healthy and the Country Fed“ <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/crop-insurance-keeps-rural-america-healthy-and-the-country-fed/>

Crop insurance has become the frontline risk management tool for farmers in virtually every corner of this great nation. Crop insurance is a public private partnership whereby individual farmers, like myself, put some “skin in the game,” by purchasing crop insurance policies to manage the many risks we face in this line of work. It does not guarantee profits, nor does it ensure farmers cannot fail. It protects farmers against circumstances beyond their control but does not prevent poorly managed farms from going under. In essence, it allows market forces to work.

Crop insurance is essential to managing uncontrollable risks of farming

*Lorraine Greco 2016 (serves on the California Board for the U.S. Rice Producers Association ) March 2016 “*ICYMI: Farm policy is essential to maintaining ag production in the U.S.” <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/icymi-farm-policy-is-essential-to-maintaining-ag-production-in-the-u-s/>

Farming is an inherently risky business and bankers want assurances that we will be able to pay back the loan if disaster strikes. We were not born into farming – we built our operation from the ground up – so we still have land and equipment payments to make regardless of whether we have a good or bad growing season, or whether a natural disaster wipes out our crops altogether. Crop insurance is something we purchase each year to manage this risk and we only receive an indemnity when we suffer a verifiable loss. Even then, it doesn’t make us whole, but it does soften the blow from a bad year. It’s important to have this kind of safety net in place for all farmers, all across the country. And, I am always alarmed by the calls in Washington to cut what remains of the farm safety net, especially from those who have no idea what it takes to grow food and fiber. We need risk management tools now more than ever to help us overcome unpredictable weather events.

Insurance Subsidy Cost Offset by Reduced Disaster Relief Costs

Cost of crop insurance is saved by not needing disaster relief

Andrew Bowman 2015 (fifth-generation farmer from Oneida, Illinois) 18 May 2013 “Crop Insurance Keeps Rural America Healthy and the Country Fed“ <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/crop-insurance-keeps-rural-america-healthy-and-the-country-fed/>

Farmers gladly purchase crop insurance, and last year spent $4.1 billion out of their own pockets to do so. And how well is crop insurance working? Last year, most of the Midwest sizzled under a heat wave and drought that cut harvests in half for some farmers and virtually destroyed entire crops for others. When all was said and done, it was the worst drought this nation had seen in decades. In the past, such widespread destruction in the Food Belt would have ignited a massive call for disaster assistance from Washington. Forty-two such emergency disaster bills in agriculture cost taxpayers $70 billion since 1989, according to the Congressional Research Service. Curiously, after last year’s drought, there wasn’t a single widespread call for disaster assistance for cropland. And the simple reason why is that 86 percent of planted cropland was protected last year by crop insurance.

Federal crop insurance eliminates the need for disaster relief

Helen Fessenden 2015 (economist with Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) ECON FOCUS “The Crop Insurance Boom” <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiLtKWW55nNAhWDTSYKHQzeBHYQFggcMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.richmondfed.org%2F-%2Fmedia%2Frichmondfedorg%2Fpublications%2Fresearch%2Fecon_focus%2F2015%2Fq1%2Fpdf%2Ffeature1.pdf&usg=AFQjCNE0s9lqv8Cqrw9Spyva5_V5hngvyw&sig2=V1P4XvI2xQs1EazUJiLwLg&bvm=bv.124088155,d.eWE>

In 2012, lawmakers didn’t even pass stand-alone disaster aid leg­islation after a devastating drought because insurers’ payouts were comprehensive enough for the crops affected. In the view of its supporters, crop insurance has succeeded as a risk management tool because it covers most farmers, pre-empts the need for ad hoc disaster relief, and effectively substitutes for other, less efficient forms of support.

Insurance provides a safety net against floods. Example: Carolinas flooding in 2015

US Dept of Agriculture 2015. “USDA Offers Assistance to Carolina Farmers and Ranchers Affected by Floods” 9 Oct 2015 <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/10/0284.xml&contentidonly=true>

"The flood event taking place in North and South Carolina is of historic proportions. As the flood waters recede, we may begin seeing land damage such as erosion that happened not only during the rainfall events, but was caused by the receding waters," said NRCS Chief Jason Weller. "It is critical that farmers, ranchers and forestland owners have financial and technical resources available to protect their natural resources and operations now and as recovery from these disasters begins." Producers with coverage through the RMA administered federal crop insurance program should contact their crop insurance agent. Those who purchased crop insurance will be paid for covered losses. "No one knows if or when situations like the floods that have devastated the Carolinas may happen. Federal crop insurance provides an effective farm safety net to help farmers recover," said RMA Administrator Brandon Willis.

A/T “Bad/Risky farm practices”

Crop insurance doesn’t promote bad practices, it actually requires more conservation

Jeremy Brown 2016 (*multi-generational Lubbock farmer who grows both conventional and organic cotton in west Texas. He is on the executive committee of Plains Cotton Growers and also grows wheat, rye and peanuts) May 2016 “*ICYMI: Farming needs strong policy and crop insurance” <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/icymi-farming-needs-strong-policy-and-crop-insurance/>

One myth these groups perpetuate is that crop insurance encourages farmers to grow on fragile, uncultivated lands. This is simply not reality, as the number of crop acres in the country has remained stable for more than three decades at roughly 328 million. Meanwhile, the number of those acres that are insured by crop insurance is approximately 298 million. The 2014 Farm Bill layered additional red tape to ensure conservation compliance on all acres where crop insurance is purchased, and fragile lands are protected by eliminating all crop insurance premium support for farmers if they damage wetlands or plow up native sod.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Weakens National Security

Link: Crop insurance is essential to preventing disruptions to US agriculture

Robert Holly 2016 (enterprise reporter for The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting and CU-CitizenAccess) Changing crop insurance program pushes taxpayer bill 11 May 2016 <http://cu-citizenaccess.org/2016/05/11/changing-crop-insurance-program-pushes-taxpayer-bill/>

Agriculture officials say that revenue-based insurance policies are essential to modern agriculture because farmers have little control over what their product ultimately sells for, and that leaves them uniquely vulnerable to price drops compared to other jobs. Farmers can just as easily go out of business from bad prices as bad weather, but revenue-protection plans provide stability, they say. “For taxpayers, if you want to have a readily available and affordable food supply, if you want to preserve rural economies, then I think it’s important to protect these revenue-based insurance policies,” said Sam Willett, a senior director of public policy for the National Corn Growers Association.

Impact: Any disruptions to productivity of agriculture will have significant impacts on Americans’ livelihoods and national security

Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases 2015. House Agriculture Committee holds first hearing to examine Agriculture and National Security, 5 Nov 2015 <http://iiad.tamu.edu/2015/11/house-agriculture-committee-holds-first-hearing-to-examine-agriculture-and-national-security/>

Former IIAD director, Tammy Beckham, DVM, Ph.D., Dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, testified during the first hearing. “The bulk of the agricultural enterprise is almost solely owned and operated by the private sector, and the U.S. is currently the world’s leading exporter of food,” Beckham said during her testimony. “When evaluating the impact on the economy, the food supply and the Nation’s jobs, it is clearly evident why this industry is deemed a U.S. critical infrastructure. Any disruption to the daily operations and/or productivity of this enterprise would have significant impacts on Americans’ livelihoods, our food supply, the economy and our public health. Simply said, U.S. agricultural security is national security.”

Impact: Nation held hostage. Farm subsidies are money well spent because US agriculture is key to national security

Jeremy Brown 2016 (*multi-generational Lubbock farmer who grows both conventional and organic cotton in west Texas. He is on the executive committee of Plains Cotton Growers and also grows wheat, rye and peanuts) May 2016 “*ICYMI: Farming needs strong policy and crop insurance” <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/icymi-farming-needs-strong-policy-and-crop-insurance/>

Federal spending on these items is well below one percent of the nation’s entire budget, but the benefit to every American consumer is a safe, secure, diverse and affordable food and fiber supply. Moreover, agriculture is the backbone of a strong economy and a strong society, and from a national security standpoint, it is crucial. We don’t want to be held hostage by another country when it comes to feeding our own people.

2. Global Hunger & International Conflict

Link & Brink: Subsidies are key to producing enough food for a growing world population and avoid food scarcity

*Dr. W. Robert Goodman 2015(retired extension agricultural economist at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an associate professor at Auburn Univ.)* 12 July 2015 WASHINGTON POST Should Washington End Agriculture Subsidies? <http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-washington-end-agriculture-subsidies-1436757020>

With only a small percentage of the population engaged in food production, few understand the fragile nature of modern farming and why government farm subsidies are necessary to protect the public from scarcity and high food prices as the world’s population expands to a projected 11 billion people by 2100 from seven billion now. Government subsidies help keep farming profitable and stable, allowing for the commercial finance of modern agriculture, the development of products and technologies that help farmers produce more food at a lower cost, and the preservation of production resources in case of future need.

Link: Subsidies promote advances in agricultural productivity

*Dr. W. Robert Goodman 2015(retired extension agricultural economist at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an associate professor at Auburn Univ.)* 12 July 2015 WASHINGTON POST Should Washington End Agriculture Subsidies? <http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-washington-end-agriculture-subsidies-1436757020>

Agriculture subsidies have promoted rapid advances in productivity by encouraging the development and adoption of modern farming methods and materials by farmers who may not have been willing to take the financial risk otherwise.

Link/Brink: US agriculture is essential to feed starving billions globally

Dr Tammy Beckham 2015 (DVM, Ph.D., Dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine) testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.4.15_beckham_testimony.pdf>

In addition to understanding the importance of the agricultural industry in the U.S. and its role in supporting national security, it is also important and critical that we understand the role of global food security in securing the homeland. Currently, 870 million people around the world do not have access to safe and nutritious food in a sufficient supply. By the year 2050, the global population is expected to exceed 9 billion people. Nearly all of the growth is expected to occur in developing countries. Feeding 9 billion people will demand that food production is increased by 70% and more specifically, that food production in the developing world double.

Impact: Food shortages, political instability, social unrest, extremism, conflict.

Dr Tammy Beckham 2015 (DVM, Ph.D., Dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine) testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.4.15_beckham_testimony.pdf>

Meeting these growing demands will be critical if we hope to maintain political stability in increasingly volatile regions across the globe. Food insecurity and scarcity is well known to be one of the most potent drivers of political instability and social unrest. In fact, according to the Lugar Center, “global food security has both foreign policy and national security implications for the U.S. Diplomatic efforts to maintain peace and stability are much more difficult whenever there are food shortages contributing to extremism and conflict”. Perfect examples of this have been seen throughout the Middle East and North Africa, where countries import over half of their food.

3. Soil erosion

Link: Crop insurance requires good farming practices as a condition of coverage

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf>

A determination that good farming practices have not been used by an insured row crop producer results in a finding that the producer’s crop is ineligible for crop insurance coverage. The Federal Crop Insurance Act itself provides that crop insurance will not cover losses due to “the failure of the producer to follow good farming practices.”

Backup Link: More details about federal insurance programs requiring “good farming practices”

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf> (RMA = Risk Management Agency in the Dept of Agriculture. FCIC = Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. AIP = Approved Insurance Provider, sells insurance to farmers and then is reinsured by FCIC.)

In liability insurance policies generally, as a doctrinal rule, insurers must satisfy conditions precedent under the insurance policy to obtain coverage. In the area of federal crop insurance, a farmer-insured must utilize “good farming practices” to obtain coverage for covered causes of loss. If “good farming practices” are not followed and a negative determination is reached by the RMA, the FCIC, or an AIP, the farmer may be denied coverage.

Link: Farm subsidies decrease soil erosion

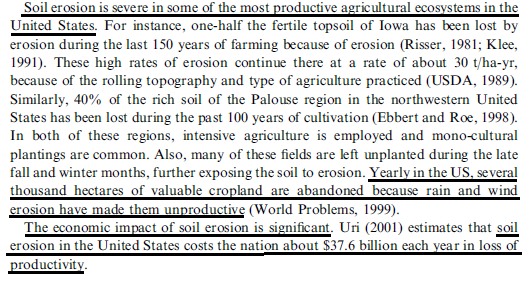
*Dr. W. Robert Goodman 2015(retired extension agricultural economist at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an associate professor at Auburn Univ.)* 12 July 2015 WASHINGTON POST Should Washington End Agriculture Subsidies? <http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-washington-end-agriculture-subsidies-1436757020>

Farm subsidies also have resulted in a significant decrease in the rate of soil erosion from crop production. Since 1985, wind and water erosion rates of farmed land in the U.S. have declined more than 40% and are still trending downward, thanks to the development and widespread adoption of agricultural technology such as conservation tillage, establishment of streamside protection zones, and grass waterways and buffer strips. Farmers must agree to comply with these erosion-limiting practices to qualify for subsidies.

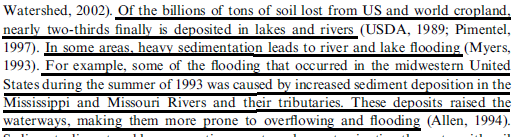
**[Impact: Cross-apply Affirmative’s evidence if they claim erosion as a Harm]**

Impact: Erosion causes economic losses and flooding

Prof. David Pimentel 2006 (College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Cornell Univ.) Journal of Environment, Development & Sustainability, “SOIL EROSION: A FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT” <http://saveoursoils.com/userfiles/downloads/1368007451-Soil%20Erosion-David%20Pimentel.pdf>



**END QUOTE. Professor Pimentel goes on to say later in the same context, QUOTE:**



4. Higher food prices

Link: Farm subsidies keep food prices low

*Dr. W. Robert Goodman 2015(retired extension agricultural economist at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an associate professor at Auburn Univ.)* 12 July 2015 WASHINGTON POST Should Washington End Agriculture Subsidies? <http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-washington-end-agriculture-subsidies-1436757020>

Even at $20 billion a year, the cost of farm subsidies is modest compared with federal spending. And much of that cost is offset because as agriculture subsidies keep food prices low, they become transfer payments made by taxpayers to consumers of agriculture commodities—or, in other words, themselves.

Impact: Higher food prices disrupt social structure and cause political instability

Dr Tammy Beckham 2015 (DVM, Ph.D., Dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine) testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture 4 Nov 2015 <http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/11.4.15_beckham_testimony.pdf>

In 2013, agriculture and agricultural -related industries contributed $789B to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and in 2012, domestic animal agriculture (e.g. ,livestock and poultry production) produced approximately 1.8M jobs , $346B in total economic output, and $60B in household income. Furthermore, in the U.S., consumers spend on average , approximately 6.4% of their annual expenditures on food. This percentage is extremely low when compared to other countries whose expenditures range from 11% (Switzerland) to 47% (Pakistan). U.S. farmers and ranchers work hard to keep food prices low and are only able to accomplish this through increased efficiencies in production. Increased efficiencies have been gained through technological advancements in industrial food production. Threats that jeopardize our production and the security and affordability of the U.S. food system have the potential to disrupt our social structure and cause political instability.

5. Climate Change

Link: Status Quo federal crop insurance program can help farmers reduce climate change impacts

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas ) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf>

The federal crop insurance program is well-positioned today to promote resilient agricultural practices that mitigate the future impact of climate change. First authorized by Congress in 1938, the federal crop insurance program, managed by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (“FCIC”) through the administration of the Risk Management Agency (“RMA”) within the Department of Agriculture, provides a safety net for farmers to hedge against the often significant risks that can arise when catastrophic weather events such as droughts occur.

Link: Federal crop insurance management agency (RMA) gives incentives for adaptation and resilience to climate change

US Dept of Agriculture 2014. “USDA Risk Management Agency – 2014 Climate Adaptation Plan” updated as of June 6, 2014 <http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/adaptation/Risk_Management_Agency.pdf>

The real property investments and capital equipment for RMA is limited and appears to have limited exposure to climate change risks. However, the crop insurance program can play a role in helping growers be more adaptive and resilient to climate change by making it easier for growers to invest in adaptation measures. In general, uncertainty discourages investment. It can take years for an adaptation measure to pay off. Why should growers invest in an adaptation measure if they may go out of business before they can fully enjoy the long-term benefits of that investment? Crop insurance helps reduce that uncertainty, which can promote investment in the adaptation measure. We have frequently heard that banks strongly encourage, or even require, crop insurance in order for a grower to secure an operating loan.

Impact: Climate change threatens the future of American agriculture: scarce food supplies and higher prices

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas ) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf> (RMA = Risk Management Agency in the Dept of Agriculture. FCIC = Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. AIP = Approved Insurance Provider, sells insurance to farmers and then is reinsured by FCIC.)

Climate change poses clear and conspicuous risks to the future vitality of American agriculture. In remarks before the National Press Club in June 2013, United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack stated that cli mate change “is new and different than anything we’ve ever tackled.” In those remarks, Secretary Vilsack noted that the year 2012 presented the second-most intense year on record for extreme weather events such as hurricanes, flooding, droughts, and wildfires. The prospect of more intense and severe weather events not only presents a danger of reduced yields on crops for American farmers, but may also cause food supplies to become scarcer, leading to higher food prices.

Impact: Climate change could cause big crop losses by the year 2100

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas ) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf>

As noted above, in October 2014, the Government Accountability Office (“GAO”) released a significant report regarding the potential effects of climate change on the federal crop insurance program. The report mentioned that in the next thirty-five years, temperatures could increase any-where from 1.8° F to 5.4° F, and such temperature variations could cause declines in crop yields, despite technological advances made in agriculture. Significantly, the report also warned that by the year 2100, climate change may potentially double crop losses.

Backup Evidence: Insurance industry agrees - We have to give incentives to the insured to reduce climate impacts

Chad Marzen and J. Grant Ballard 2016. (Marzen - Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, Florida State University. Ballard - attorney with the Banks Law Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas ) CLIMATE CHANGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE <http://ealr.bclawreview.org/files/2016/05/05_marzen_ballard.pdf>

The insurance industry generally appears to be quite aware and cognizant of the risks presented by climate change. In early 2013, leaders of the insurance industry discussed concerns that the risk of climate change presents an “existential threat” to the insurance industry. In response, insurers are now increasingly active in encouraging states to adopt strengthened building codes and policies that reward sensible resource management con-sistent with mitigating climate change risk. An increasing amount of scholarly attention is being spent analyzing steps private insurers can take in the effort to reduce the harmful effects of climate change, such as the usage of risk modeling, which incorporates projections of climate change impact into results, as well as the implementation of incentives for policyholders to utilize energy efficient features in homes and vehicles.

6. Farm State Economies

Crop insurance produces billions of dollars and thousands of jobs in farm states

Andrew Bowman 2015 (fifth-generation farmer from Oneida, Illinois) 18 May 2013 “Crop Insurance Keeps Rural America Healthy and the Country Fed“ <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/crop-insurance-keeps-rural-america-healthy-and-the-country-fed/>

In fact, according to a new study by economists in Lincoln, Nebraska, indemnity payments from farmers who purchased crop insurance generated off-farm economic impact of nearly $2.2 billion across Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. That figure includes $721 million of labor income that preserved 20,900 off-farm jobs in the region. The economists noted “the income from crop insurance payments can play a key role in stabilizing local economies both in the year of the drought and in subsequent years. In agricultural states such as Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, crop insurance can also play a key role in stabilizing the statewide economies.”

Crop insurance is key to rural community wealth and development

Andrew Bowman 2015 (fifth-generation farmer from Oneida, Illinois) 18 May 2013 “Crop Insurance Keeps Rural America Healthy and the Country Fed“ <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/crop-insurance-keeps-rural-america-healthy-and-the-country-fed/>

You see, crop insurance is not only a risk management tool, but also a working capital insurance tool. In short, unlike farmers in other countries, American farmers aren’t forced to bank all of their money on the good years to weather the bad. Instead they can reinvest in their farm and by extension in their communities year after year, generating wealth for other families and much-needed rural development.

7. Unfair trade practices

Link: Need crop insurance to combat unfair agricultural trade practices by China and Thailand

*Lorraine Greco 2016 (serves on the California Board for the U.S. Rice Producers Association ) March 2016 “*ICYMI: Farm policy is essential to maintaining ag production in the U.S.” <http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org/icymi-farm-policy-is-essential-to-maintaining-ag-production-in-the-u-s/>

Additionally, we need policy in place to combat unfair practices with our foreign competitors like China and Thailand whose support for their rice growers far exceeds that of the United States and actually violates agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO). While the U.S. was reforming its policy in the 2014 Farm Bill, other countries were ramping up support for their farmers, in some cases by more than a 100 percent. Their policies are trade distorting and leave American growers at a competitive disadvantage. American farmers can and do manage extraordinary risks, year in and year out, but we cannot manage the challenges associated with unpredictable and sustained natural disasters, volatile markets, and trade distorting policies of our foreign counterparts without risk management tools like crop insurance and farm policy.

Impact: Chinese mercantilist policies damage the US economy

Dr Robert D Atkinson 2012. (president of the [Information Technology and Innovation Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Technology_and_Innovation_Foundation), a public policy [think tank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_tank); formerly vice president of the [Progressive Policy Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_Policy_Institute); PhD in City and Regional Planning) February 2012 Enough is Enough: Confronting Chinese Innovation Mercantilism <http://www2.itif.org/2012-enough-enough-chinese-mercantilism.pdf>

Because China is so large and because it’s distortive mercantilist policies are so extensive, these policies have done significant damage to the United States and other economies. The massive subsidies to keep production artificially cheap both reduce the cost of Chinese labor and move the world production system more towards labor and away from capital, reducing global productivity.