

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Matthew H. Tueller
U.S. Ambassador to Iraq
U.S. Embassy Baghdad
Al-Kindi Street
International Zone
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Ambassador Tueller,

Your past work on behalf of U.S. agriculture has been instrumental in building stronger ties between US wheat producers and their Iraqi milling customers. Today we are writing to again request your assistance to ensure wheat flows freely between our two countries.

The current wheat situation in Iraq is troublesome. Due to smaller than expected harvests, and subsequent lower than expected government procurement of local wheat, Iraq will need to import a substantial volume of wheat to continue to operate their primary subsidized feeding program, the Public Distribution System. That situation is made more dire by Iraqi's current budget challenges and their lengthy tendering and inspection systems – from the time a tender is issued, it takes nearly 3 months for wheat to arrive in country. That means the Iraqis need to act now, to ensure their PDS has ample wheat available late this fall.

The good news is that financing assistance and U.S. wheat are readily available to them. The wheat MOU, which your office has been instrumental in establishing has created a tendering process that functions well and receives good U.S. exporter participation. Also, the U.S. EXIM bank nearly a year ago established a \$450 million export credit guarantee for wheat and rice sales to Iraq. That financing tool remains available and has yet to be tapped.

The U.S. is generally the largest exporter of wheat to this market and a natural partner to supply wheat to Iraq in times of need. However, as you are well aware, wheat purchases by Iraq require multiple ministries working in tandem – which is where we are hopeful your outreach to them can be helpful. We are asking for support to help push the wheat tendering process along and for the State Department to offer additional assistance to the Iraqis to access the EXIM tools.

Thank you for the continued support and efforts on behalf of the U.S. wheat industry and all of US agriculture and their customers in Iraq.

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator

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Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of John Cornyn in blue ink.

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of James M. Inhofe in blue ink.

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator