

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Rollins,

I appreciate your efforts to advance much-needed reforms at the Department, particularly as we face serious challenges like the ongoing bird flu outbreak. As this crisis continues to threaten our food supply and farming communities, I urge you to work closely with Hickman Farms and other producers to identify practical, effective solutions. Strong collaboration will be key to protecting livelihoods and containing the spread before it gets worse.

The outbreak has caused unprecedented losses. Hickman Farms, a multi-generational farm that has served Arizona for more than 84 years, has lost 95% of its flock—around 6 million birds. These losses will disrupt their operations for at least two years, forcing layoffs and harming the workers and communities that depend on them. The toll at Hickman's mirrors what producers are facing nationwide and threatens agriculture, the food chain, and public health.

By working alongside farmers and creating access to new and innovative immunization systems or offering preventive treatment options through voluntary programs, the USDA can gather critical real-world data to refine and speed up deployment—without imposing heavy-handed mandates. This is a straightforward way to equip farmers with the tools they need to fight the outbreak and secure our food supply.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress