



P.O. Box 80299, Lincoln, NE 68501 | (402) 421-4400

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fortenberry,

On behalf of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation (NEFB) and our more than 55,000 member families, I am writing to you today to urge you to oppose the Build Back Better Act (BBB) when it comes to the House floor for a vote. This partisan package of new social spending and tax increases on both businesses and individuals falls well outside of legislation we can support. Given our continued concerns with increased inflation along with the significant amount of federal spending which has occurred over the past two years, now is not the time to spend trillions more and significantly increase taxes.

As you know, the Consumer Price Index is at a 31-year high with little relief in sight. Our fear is that the creation of new federal social spending programs will only make our inflation challenges worse. At the same time, BBB is paid for by significantly increasing taxes on individuals and businesses which will limit economic growth and potentially destroy jobs at a time when our nation's economy can least afford it. The bill's potential methane tax on the oil and gas industry alone will lead to further gas/energy price increases which will continue to wreak havoc on the financial security of our nation's citizens, businesses, as well as farm and ranch families.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge BBB's significant investment in rural America and farmers and ranchers through voluntary conservation programs. However, when weighing the good with the bad, this bill's significant price tag along with the increased taxes used to pay for it clearly outweigh any benefit that may exist in the legislation. The development of sound public policy should always transcend party politics and campaign promises and slogans. It is our hope that what happens in Washington, D.C. can go back to the former and move away from the latter. Thank you for your friendship and thank you for all that you do to better the economic future of Nebraska's farm and ranch families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark McHargue'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark McHargue
President