

JOHN HOEVEN  
NORTH DAKOTA

338 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2551  
FAX: (202) 224-7999

[hoeven.senate.gov](http://hoeven.senate.gov)

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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December 5, 2018

Mr. Martin Barbre  
Administrator  
Risk Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Barbre:

As you may know, the end of insurance for corn and soybeans is December 10, 2018. According to USDA crop progress reports, North Dakota farmers have hundreds of thousands of acres of corn and soybeans in the fields still, and these producers are likely to still have corn and soybeans in the field when this date arrives. That is why I urge the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to provide guidance to producers on their requirements to keep the acreage insured under the policy as well as provide information regarding potential losses to be calculated in cases where harvest is beyond end of insurance.

Throughout this year, North Dakota farmers have experienced continuous delays to harvest. The crop progress report for the end of November showed North Dakota still had close to 1 million acres of corn and 500,000 acres of soybeans out for harvest. Despite progress made since that report, farmers have still struggled with delays due to weather and seasonal issues.

Historically, RMA has issued directives permitting crop insurance companies to work with producers and allow them to stay in contact with the loss adjustor as harvest continues past the December 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. The final loss adjustment is then completed following the completion of harvest, or after producers have to give up on the harvest.

While medium to long range forecasts indicate that soybeans should be able to be harvested by the end of the calendar year, guidance from USDA to producers is needed to help provide direction and clarity for our farmers. I once again urge RMA to issue guidance to crop insurance companies, their loss adjustors, and the agents about properly processing crops that are left unharvested after end of insurance.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact my Agriculture Legislative Assistant, Brita Endrud, at [Brita\\_Endrud@hoeven.senate.gov](mailto:Brita_Endrud@hoeven.senate.gov). Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
United States Senator