The following is a statement from Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding the bipartisan stimulus package – entitled the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – passed by the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

“Illinois Farm Bureau applauds Congress and the Trump Administration for their rapid response to write and pass a historic bill that begins to address the financial insecurity farmers and this nation face during these uncertain times.

“The coronavirus impact has exacerbated already low commodity prices and has factored into additional pressure on the already tight margins of ethanol producers. A relief package of this magnitude helps to prop up the economic well-being of farmers and support the supply chain needed to feed America’s families and our international customers.

“The CARES Act includes funding that will support farmers in two major ways: Funds to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), and additional funds to give Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue the flexibility he needs to support livestock producers, dairies, and farmers who grow food for local markets. CCC funding will help USDA address additional needs as they arise during this crisis.

“We thank our congressional delegation, the president and his administration for their leadership during this crisis and for listening to our ideas to help shape this historic effort.”

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 386,291 and a voting membership of 79,159. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

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