



## CIRB: Your Voice in Washington

Next week, CIRB will be seen and heard on Capitol Hill when our Executive Committee meets with decision makers in Congress and USDA to speak out for the crop insurance and reinsurance community.

Our core message: Congress should support effective, affordable crop insurance protection for farmers and ranchers and oppose changes that would discourage producer participation or undermine private sector delivery.

With the release of the President's budget this week and farm bill negotiations likely to heat up soon, our fly-in couldn't be timelier. CIRB leaders will meet with more than 35 Congressional offices, including House and Senate leadership, committee offices, friends, and critics.

We will have a very positive story to share. Today, crop insurance is the cornerstone of farmers' risk management portfolios. Our recent and widespread crop losses clearly demonstrate the need for this protection. And, notably, there were no calls for expensive ad hoc disaster assistance in 2012 because crop insurance was there for farmers and ranchers when they needed it most.

But we will also defend crop insurance from real threats, including proposals such as means testing and conservation compliance that could lower participation rates and therefore reduce the financial stability of the food sector. It is important that we take this opportunity to separate fact from fiction.

And even if you aren't attending the fly-in, CIRB members are encouraged to use our [Legislative Action Center](#) to reach out to your elected officials and learn how they have voted on issues of importance to our industry in the past. Take every opportunity to get to know your representatives and help them understand the critical role that our industry plays for our nation's food production.

This event caps off a very busy few months for CIRB. Last month, we coordinated a "Crop Insurance 101" briefing that was attended by 40 Senate offices. Before that, CIRB coordinated a letter to Congress in support of crop insurance that was signed by 43 stakeholder organizations. And in February we brought together industry leaders and expert speakers at our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to get involved in our efforts to protect and promote crop insurance.



Greg Mills, ADM Crop Risk Services  
CIRB Chairman