



**Statement by Susan Kibbe, Executive Director of the South Texans' Property Rights Association, on the recent passage of the Farm Bill by Congress**

*December 17, 2018*

“We applaud the members of the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress for their work and wisdom in passing the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, also known as the “Farm Bill”. We especially commend Congressman Michael Conaway of Midland who chairs the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture for his leadership role in negotiating a bi-partisan compromise in the bill’s conference committee which allowed the bill to reach final passage. Those negotiations resolved many months of disagreements and debates and enabled a final version of the bill to be passed and sent to the President’s desk for his signature.

Passage of the Farm Bill is of significant interest to many members of the South Texans’ Property Rights Association (STPRA) who are concerned about the control and ultimate eradication of fever ticks and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The final version of the bill built on preliminary work done by Texas Congressmen Cuellar and Gonzalez, who earlier this year secured almost \$100 million in additional funding for fever tick control, and bi-partisan legislation by Sen. Cornyn and Sen. Klobuchar which enhanced livestock inspections for disease control.

STPRA is particularly pleased that the Farm Bill promotes a comprehensive approach for eradicating targeted animal diseases, providing support for proven ongoing measures that are needed to prevent the immediate spread of the diseases, while also providing incentives for state colleges and other researchers to develop vaccines, biological treatments, and land management methods that could amp up the possibilities for the full eradication of diseases in the future. It is our understanding that funding priorities for these programs will be set by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture within the parameters of the bill. STPRA will remain vigilant as those priorities are being set, advocating on behalf of viable fever tick and CWD programs in the process.”