



February 2, 2026

**Subject: USA Pulses Federal Legislative Priorities for 2026**

**Dear Member of Congress:**

USA Pulses is a coalition representing producers, processors, first purchasers, exporters, and food manufacturers of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans—pulse crops. Our goal is to double consumption and production of pulse crops in the U.S. by 2030. The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) highlighted the need for all Americans to include pulses in their diets to provide needed protein, fiber, iron, potassium and other important nutrients. Nutrition scientists have confirmed that increasing consumption of pulses, particularly in schools will reduce obesity and chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. The following list of priorities focus on actions that increase funding for pulse crop research, increase access to pulse products—particularly in schools, promote trade and remove barriers, expand food aid purchases, and improve risk management for the entire pulse value chain. USA Pulses asks for your help to accomplish the following and improve the health of all Americans:

1. **School Pulse Crops Products Program (SPCPP) funding at \$10 million for FY 2027.** The SPCPP has not received any funding to date. The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) clearly outline the need for including pulses in the diet. The SPCPP will provide resources to school systems to test, introduce, and assess new menu items made from pulses. ***USA Pulses requests \$10 million as a pilot program for the School Lunch Program.***
2. **Trade and Tariffs.** USA Pulses strongly support maintaining existing free trade agreements and pursuing new agreements to expand market access and ensure fair treatment for U.S. pulses and pulse products. Tariffs imposed on our major trading partners has reduced export sales of pulses an average of 40% in 2025. Pulses lost \$210,129,804 in export sales in 2025 compared to 2024. At the same time, tariffs were imposed to stop the dumping of protein made from pulses into the U.S. market by China. This action is still under review. It is critical that trade agreements are negotiated swiftly in response to potential retaliatory tariffs and that they address both tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting U.S. pulses and help prevent unfair competition, ensuring that U.S. exporters can maintain active sales and market presence abroad. To address the losses suffered in the current trade climate we ask Congress for the following assistance.
  - a) **Additional USDA Farmer Bridge Assistance:** *To ensure financial resiliency, timely and expanded Bridge Assistance payments are essential to the rural economies hit hardest by ongoing Trade and Tariff market disruptions.*
  - b) **Renewed Antidumping Measures:** *To limit the harm and impact of China's pea protein dumping in U.S. markets, USA Pulses requests any trade deals with China include protections and adequate antidumping measures.*
  - c) **Signed Agreements.** *USA Pulses asks for signed agreements with India, China, the EU and our USMCA partners to improve market prices and help the industry provide the best quality pulses to our customers across the world.*
3. **Food Aid.** Providing food aid not only assists people in crisis; it creates the potential for future export markets. In addition, during these times of tough markets, food aid programs provide a valuable outlet for surplus pulses. This current period of low prices is an ideal time to utilize pulses for food aid programs, providing food for needy populations while helping U.S. farmers and processors. USA Pulses supports establishing food aid distribution through the USDA and urges the Administration to move quickly to implement FY 2026 purchases of U.S. commodities. ***USA Pulses supports increased funding in FY 2027 for PL 480, McGovern-Dole, Section 32, National School Lunch Programs, and food assistance programs.***

4. **FY 2027 Appropriations focused on Quality and Health/Nutrition Research:**
  - a) **Pulse Crop Health Initiative (PCHI) fully funded at \$25 million.** The PCHI is funded at \$5.5 million in FY 2026. Currently, the PCHI is funding 53 projects focusing on nutrition, functionality, new product development, and enhancements for food production systems using pulses and pulse products. *USA Pulses requests full funding of this program at \$25 million in FY 2027.*
  - b) **USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Pulse Quality Network funding at \$6 million for FY 2027.** The USDA-ARS network of research labs that comprise the Pulse Quality Network investigates the quality parameters of pulses and pulse products. Funded at \$2.8 million in FY 2026, the pulse industry *appreciates support for the Pulse Quality Network and urges a further increase to \$6 million in FY 2027.*
5. **Pulse Processor Risk Management.** The Pulse Industry faces the risk of economic “shocks” outside of industry control. These shocks are a result of weather events, barriers to trade like tariffs, or transportation congestion which disrupts deliveries. Tools like crop insurance or farm program payments mitigate these disruptions for producers. Processors and first purchasers which provide critical links in the value chain, have no such tools. Many of these businesses are in rural communities, providing important employment for their community. *USA Pulses is asking for support to develop risk management tools for processors and first purchasers.*
6. **Farm Bill.** USA Pulses thanks Congress for passing the Big Beautiful Bill in 2025. This bill addressed many of the highest Farm Bill priorities for USA Pulses. There are additional Farm bill authorizing provisions that remain, including:
  - a) **Dry Beans as a Title I Crop.** Add dry beans to the Title I covered crops eligible for farm program safety net payments including: marketing loans and ARC/PLC payments.
  - b) **Add “Fava Bean” and “Lupin” Exception to Base Acres.** We support the amendment of Section 1114. Payment Acres, paragraph (e) Effect of Planting Fruits and Vegetables to include Fava (also called Faba) Bean and Lupin as an exception to base acre reductions required by the planting of Fruits and Vegetables.
7. **Transportation.** USA Pulses promotes their product as the highest quality in the world. Transportation is a critical link in providing quality pulses in a timely and dependable manner—critical characteristics of high quality. USA Pulses supports efforts to modernize the port infrastructure at ocean ports across the country. We look to the Ocean Shipping Reform Act to help establish efficiencies in U.S. Ports on the west coast, the east coast and the southern coast. USA Pulses encourages the Department of Transportation to create programs encouraging upgrades to container handling facilities and freight corridors at U.S. ports. We look to the Surface Transportation Board to have authority to encourage the railroads to prioritize specialty crop shipments. Since labor is such a key partner in providing quality transportation, *USA Pulses asks the administration to work to anticipate labor issues in advance of contract expiration.*
8. **Personnel vacancies at USDA-ARS.** Over the past 7 years, ARS has received additional funding for the Pulse Crop Health Initiative and the Pulse Quality Network. The purpose of this funding is to add skilled personnel to the mission of providing the best quality pulses to producers, processors, food manufacturers and ultimately to consumers. Key vacancies of concern are at the labs supporting the Pulse Quality Network, the Plant Introduction Center, and the Pulse Crop Genomics and Plant Physiology Research Unit. *USDA-ARS needs to take action to use additional funding to fill vacancies created by retirement, resignations, or development of new positions.*

Our coalition thanks you for your help with our priorities and looks forward to working together to improve the health of America.

Sincerely,



Tim McGreevy, CEO, USA Pulses