

# FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S AGRICULTURE

## SENATOR RICK SCOTT'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE

### FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S GROWERS

- **Block Grant Assistance Act**: This critical bill provides authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue block grants to agriculture producers devastated by natural disasters like Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Block grant assistance was provided to Florida's farmers in the wake of Hurricanes Michael and Florence.
- **Defending Domestic Produce Production Act**: Florida's fruit and vegetable growers suffer losses due to "seasonal dumping" of Mexican produce. This legislation gives seasonal fruit and vegetable growers the ability to petition the federal government for relief from unabated unfair trade practices due to foreign imports.
- In December, Senator Scott sent a **letter** to the U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo reiterating the need for the immediate termination of a 2019 suspension agreement that allows Mexico's tomato exports to flood the domestic market without accountability from the Department of Commerce.
- Senator Scott hosted a **roundtable** in Parkesdale with Sen. John Boozman, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson to discuss the Farm Bill and how it can meet the needs of Florida's growers and to discuss the need for improved disaster relief for farmers across the country.

### FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S HUNTERS

- Senator Scott's **resolution** designating March 16th as National Osceola Turkey Day unanimously passed the Senate. This resolution highlights the unique sub-species of turkey only native to Florida, celebrate Florida's wildlife management and conservation, and support recreational hunting in the state.

### FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S ANGLERS

- **Fishery Improvement to Streamline Untimely Regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act)**: Senator Scott led his colleagues in introducing legislation that seeks to expedite the distribution of federal disaster relief following official fishery disaster declarations—which the State of Florida has requested six times since 2012.
- **Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act (FREDI Act)**: This law has improved the fishery disaster assistance process at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and restored some confidence and faith in the fishery disaster assistance process by increasing transparency and user experience when applying for relief. Senator Scott joined his colleagues in sending a **letter** to Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at NOAA, urging the implementation of the FREDI Act.
- Senator Scott joined his colleagues in a **letter** to the Office of Management and Budget expressing concerns over NOAA's proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Speed Restrictions Rule and the effects it will have on Florida's coastal communities.

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