

FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S AGRICULTURE

SENATOR RICK SCOTT'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE

FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S GROWERS

Sunshine Protection Act: This bill would end the twice-yearly time change and make Daylight Saving Time the national year-round standard. The current biannual change disrupts the agricultural industry by impacting farmer schedules and supply chain partners.

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, Nicole, Debby, Helene and Milton. 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.

Foreign Adversary Risk Management (FARM) Act: We have seen a surge of American farmland purchases from our foreign adversaries, like Communist China. Food security is national security, and we cannot allow our adversaries to control our food supply. This legislation permanently adds the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS), the governmental body that oversees the vetting process of foreign investment and acquisition of American companies.

Securing American Agriculture Act: Communist China has gained significant market share in the production of essential agricultural inputs, such as vitamins, veterinary pharmaceuticals, and crop protection tools. This legislation requires the United States Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with United States Trade Representative and the Department of Commerce to conduct an annual assessment to evaluate American critical agricultural input supply chains that could be exploited by China, current domestic production capacity for specified critical inputs, the current and potential bottlenecks in the food and agriculture supply chain. It also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide recommendations to mitigate potential threats from China and for legislative and regulatory actions to reduce barriers to domestic critical input production.

FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S ANGLERS

Red Snapper Act: This bill will stop the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from unilaterally closing the Red Snapper fishery in the South Atlantic until a full South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count study is complete.

Fishery Improvement to Streamline Untimely Regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act): This bill was signed into law on December 21, 2024. This law improves the federal regulatory process associated with the allocation of fishery disaster relief and expedites the distribution of federal disaster relief following official fishery disaster declarations—which the State of Florida has requested six times since 2012.

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, celebrates Florida's wildlife management and conservation, and supports recreational hunting in the state.

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