

# FIGHTING FOR FLORIDA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

## SENATOR RICK SCOTT'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE

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**Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2025:** This bill allows for tax relief for victims of federally declared disasters through the end of 2026, including hurricanes and wildfires. Additionally, it extends victims' ability to make tax-deductible payments from wildfire settlements, which often occur many years after a disaster, through the end of 2030.

**Permitting Transparency and Accountability Act:** This bill requires all agencies that issue permits to create a website page where applicants can track each stage of the permitting review process.

**Broadband Buildout Accountability Act:** This bill increases transparency and accountability for a \$42 billion grant, intended to bring internet to rural communities. This grant has failed to connect a single American to high-speed internet in the last four years.

**Death Tax Repeal Act:** This bill repeals the federal estate tax, often referred to as the death tax, ending surprise taxes on family businesses, farms, and ranchers when the owner passes away.

**Merchant Banking Modernization Act:** This bill expands access to capital opportunities for small businesses in rural areas by changing the holding period for merchant banking investments from 10 to 15 years.

**Defending Domestic Orange Juice Production Act:** This bill supports American growers by changing the standard sugar levels for pasteurized orange juice from a 10.5% Brix standard to 10%.

**United States Citrus Protection Act:** This bill protects American jobs, ensures the integrity of domestic agriculture, and reduces our reliance on goods produced by regimes that pose a threat to the United States by prohibiting the importation of commercially produced fresh citrus fruit from Communist China into the U.S.

**Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act:** This bill reduces obstacles to accessible and quality health care for Medicare Advantage enrollees in rural communities.

**Secure Rural School Reauthorization Act:** This bill extends the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act* of 2000. The bill would extend payments made to states and counties containing federal land through fiscal year 2026, provide for payments for fiscal year 2024 and 2025, and extend the authority of counties to initiate projects using such funds and proposed by resource advisory committees through fiscal year 2028.

**Not One More Inch or Acre Act:** This bill blocks the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its affiliates from purchasing any public or private real estate in the United States.

**Food Date Labeling Act:** This bill works to eliminate confusion around food expiration labels and reduce food waste nationwide. The bill would establish two clear, standardized labels: "Best If Used By" for quality and "Use By" for safety, in an effort to help American families avoid unnecessary food disposal, save consumers money, boost food donation efforts, and reduce environmental harm caused by food waste.

**Fishery Improvement to Streamline Untimely Regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act):** This bill, which was signed into law on December 21, 2024, 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.

**Chairman Rick Scott's Aging Committee Hearing on America's Vanishing Family Farms:** Chairman Rick Scott led a hearing focused on the growing challenges associated with the aging population of America's farmers and the long-term impact on the nation's agricultural sector, as well as the urgent need to address the declining number of young people entering farming, and the economic and logistical hurdles facing older farmers as they look to transition their operations to the next generation.

**Chairman Rick Scott's Report on America's Aging Farm Workforce:** Chairman Rick Scott highlighted the significant challenges posed by America's aging farm workforce and presented policy recommendations to strengthen this critical industry and protect U.S. food security in his **America's Aging Farm Workforce: Why Vanishing Family Farms are a Growing Threat to U.S. Food Security and Rural Communities** report.

**Sen Rick Scott Applauds Trump Administration for FDA Decision:** Senator Rick Scott applauded the Trump administration for the FDA decision to support the **Defending Domestic Orange Juice Production Act** and American citrus growers.

**Sen. Rick Scott Applauds Pres. Donald Trump and Sec. of Agriculture Brook Rollins:** Senator Rick Scott applauded President Trump and Secretary Rollins for their support of Florida's agriculture industry through the delivery of long-delayed disaster relief block grants.

**Sen Rick Scott's Letter to Sec. of Commerce Howard Lutnick:** Senator Rick Scott applauded the Trump administration and Secretary Lutnick for their decision to terminate the 2019 Tomato Suspension Agreement. This agreement harmed American growers and producers for years as it failed to protect them from unfair trade practices.

**Sen. Rick Scott's Letters to Sec. of Agriculture Brooke Rollins:** On March 12, 2025, Senator Rick Scott sent a letter to Secretary Rollins expressing his support for the Trump administration's efforts and commitment to supporting American farmers, ranchers, and agricultural communities and protecting the nation's critical food security.

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