



Farm Bill

NATaT Supports a Robust Rural Development Title in the 2018 Farm Bill

NATaT supports a Rural Development Title that promotes economic growth and stability that improves the quality of life of rural Americans. Programs included in the Rural Development Title of the Farm Bill help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

The *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, H.R. 2* that was passed by the House Agriculture Committee includes authorized funding for the long-standing rural development programs that our towns and townships have benefited from for many years. It also includes new programs focused on broadband deployment and the opioid crisis that is impacting our communities at a startling rate. NATaT is very supportive of these provisions. We are, however, concerned that H.R. 2 does not include *mandatory* funding for programs in the Rural Development Title. Instead, programs must rely on annual appropriations to fund these programs, and the appropriations process – and timing thereof – continues to be inconsistent. These programs are too important to our nation’s rural communities to not receive mandatory funding. We hope the Senate Agriculture Committee will take this concern into consideration when drafting its version of the Farm Bill.