

Mr Chairman,

My husband and I have worked for over 40 yrs in agriculture and the livestock industry. It offers a way of life that I am dedicated to. And I am well aware of how impactful the cost of fuel is to our bottom lines. I have roaded haying equipment from one field to another and then loaded ton after ton of hay into the barn. I have hauled our year's lamb crop to market and our wool crop to the mill, trailered horses across the state and across state lines, and shipped cows and calves out.

And of course I understand the anxiety of many of my neighbors about the future of this way of life. As civic, political, and financial factors evolve in our state, country and the world, that fear seems more and more realistic. And the manipulation of that fear by many vested interests increases. I empathize so much with the commitment of those who live in our rural communities to pass their farms on to their children.

But my great fear is that if we are not courageous enough to take a first step to address climate trauma now and continue to improve such legislation on an ongoing basis, the land and the way of life they leave their children will be dead or dying.

Leslee Lucas
Benton County