



TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Andy Holt
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture
440 Hogan Road
Nashville, TN 37220

Re: Infrastructure Funding for Bungie Road in Dyer County, Tennessee

Commissioner Holt,

The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF) is pleased to submit this letter regarding Bungie Road (also known as Bunge Road) in Dyer County. TFBF is the largest general farm organization in Tennessee, representing farmers of all types from across the state. Our policy is developed through a grassroots network of member farmers who identify, research, deliberate, vote on, and adopt policies related to agriculture and rural living. On behalf of our farmer members, we support investments in Bungie Road in Dyer County as it is vital to farmers not only in Tennessee, but across the mid-south region in states like Kentucky, Missouri and Arkansas to get their commodities to market. TFBF policy specifically states:

Special attention should be paid to rural state and county highways which are essential to the marketing or transportation of commodities, such as those roadways to granaries, barge terminals, and markets.

There is a critical need for immediate funding to repair and upgrade Bungie Road. This vital infrastructure serves as a primary transportation route for Tennessee's agricultural row crop producers, linking them to the Mississippi River—the main access for interstate shipping and international trade. Unfortunately, the portion closest to the river has been in severe disrepair for an extended period, creating significant safety hazards, financial strain, and logistical challenges for those who rely on it to transport agricultural goods.

Farmers and commercial grain facilities depend on timely shipments to stay competitive. When grain cannot be moved to handling facilities, delays and disruptions lead to increased costs across the board, especially for the farmers of the region. In addition to the added expenses of rerouting grain deliveries, the unpredictable nature of the road's closures has led to broader economic consequences for the region. As long as this road remains unreliable, it will be difficult to attract additional industry and investment to the area.

Adopting Bungie Road as a state road and conducting further maintenance and repair is not a matter of convenience, but a matter of economic survival for Tennessee's row crop producers and industry partners. Without the ability to transport grain efficiently and reliably, farmers risk increased costs and reduced profitability. Furthermore, the lack of safe and dependable infrastructure stifles growth and discourages investment in the area.

Thank you for attention to your important matter for the agricultural economy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Mayberry".

Eric Mayberry
President
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation