

Dear Representative,

We the undersigned organizations thank you for pulling the one-year farm bill extension bill. Our letter in opposition to that bill is pasted in below.

We understand the need to address livestock disaster assistance and continue to believe the best way to accomplish that objective is to get to work finalizing a 5-year farm bill. **If, however, a stand-alone disaster bill is brought to the floor, we urge that funding for the drought assistance be allocated in an equitable and fair way. Using disproportionate cuts to conservation to fund disaster assistance undermines the successful conservation programs** that are currently being utilized. Disproportionately cutting conservation dollars to pay for disaster aid is shortsighted, and the long-term investment in conservation should not be usurped by the short-term thinking to address severe drought.

The stand alone bill currently listed on the suspension calendar does not meet the test of basic fairness. While we all strongly support providing disaster relief to those suffering this terrible drought, **we cannot support a bill that would make the impacts of future drought more severe by cutting the very programs that help build disaster resiliency into farming operations.**

American Farmland Trust
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Izaak Walton League of America
Land Trust Alliance
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Water Environment Federation