

This Letter is sent on Behalf of the Undersigned Groups. For more information contact Lorette Picciano, Rural Coalition at lpicciano@ruralco.org or 202-628-7160; Y. Armando Nieto, Community Food and Justice Coalition at yarnieto@cafoodjustice.org or 510-547-1547; Katherine Ozer, National Family Farm Coalition at kozer@nffc.net or 202-543-5675; or Ferd Hoefner, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition at fhoefner@sustainableagriculture.net or 202-547-5754.

July 11, 2013

Statement of Community Based Groups On the House Passage of Farm Bill

On behalf of the undersigned, we express our outrage at the failure to provide for food security and to include significant farm safety net reform in the Farm Bill that was passed today in the U.S. House of Representatives. We urge that the final Farm Bill that emerges from the House-Senate conference reflect a full and fair Farm Bill. It must include farm, food and nutrition programs, and provide long-term protection and continued funding for the now-stranded but critical subset of programs and offices charged with serving the most chronically under-served segments of agriculture and our rural and urban communities. The House should immediately appoint conferees and work toward adoption of a final full and fair Farm Bill yet this summer.

The final bill should include all Titles as in the Senate bill, including a Nutrition Title; rejecting deep cuts or radical changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and SNAP-Education programs that currently help over 47 million Americans. In addition, the inclusion of reforms to further reduce spending on crop insurance and commodity programs is essential. Completion of action on this important and long-delayed legislation should also include robust provisions to increase economic opportunity for the nation's diverse family farmers, farm and food workers, rural and urban communities, and Indian Tribes, and also mitigate the disasters affecting farmers across the country and protect the environment.

Scores of groups, including the undersigned organizations, strongly support equity, justice, and access across the titles of the Farm Bill. We pledge to work with Congress to pass a Farm Bill package that assures producers and communities around the country, who depend on critical programs currently left stranded or which have had funding cut in past Farm Bill proposals and extensions, are afforded the investments needed in rural and urban communities across the nation.

These critical programs, representing a small fraction of overall Farm Bill investments, support assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, Beginning Farmer Development, Rural Development, Renewable Energy, Specialty Crop, Organic and Urban Agriculture, Tribal Relations, Community Food Projects, SNAP Ed and Farmers' Markets. With a frame of equity, we also urge inclusion of support to mitigate widespread disasters, protect natural resources, construct a new and economically viable future for agriculture and rural communities,

and assure access to healthy food economies for all, in urban and rural areas.

Completion of a full and intact Farm Bill in 2013 is critical to the health of our recovering national economy. As Congress moves forward on this important legislation, we urge the members to make all funding and policy recommendations relative to Farm Bill programs with an eye toward the future. We also strongly urge Congress to assure access to affordable healthy and nutritious food for all; continue support for the next generations of our nation's farmers and ranchers; farmland and environmental protection; and ensure the success of our nation's diverse producers, including minority veterans, women, tribal, and limited resource farmers, farm and food workers, and communities most often in greatest need of those important landmark programs created by Congress in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bill processes.

21st Century Youth Leadership Movement, *Eutaw, AL*
Agriculture and Land Based Training Institute, *Salinas, CA*
Agrisystems International, *Windgap, PA*
Agrisystems International, *De Forest, WI*
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives, *Forkland, AL*
Alianza Campesinas de Nacional, *Oxnard, CA*
America the Beautiful Fund, *Washington, DC*
American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3354, *St. Louis, MO*
Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, *Brinkley, AR*
Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties Farmers Union (OH), *Windsor, OH*
Baruch MPA Student and Community Advocate for Food and Climate Justice, *New York, NY*
Bethany Christian Services-Hope Farms, *Grand Rapids, MI*
California FarmLink, *Santa Cruz, CA*
California Institute of Rural Studies, *Davis, CA*
CAN-Act, *Davis, CA*
Center for Social Inclusion, *New York, NY*
Centers for New Horizons, *Chicago, IL*
Central Valley Health Policy, *Fresno, CA*
Coalition of North East Associations Inc., *Rochester, NY*
Community Farm Alliance, *Frankfort, KY*
Community Food and Justice Coalition, *Oakland, CA*
Cook County Place Matters, *Chicago, IL*
Ecology Center, *Berkeley, CA*
Equity Matters, *Baltimore, MD*
Fair World Project, *Portland, OR*
Farm to Table Food Services, *Oakland, CA*
Farmworker Association of Florida, *Apopka, FL*
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, *Atlanta, GA*
Food & Water Watch, *Washington, DC*

Food Chain Workers Alliance, *Los Angeles, CA*
Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, *Oakland, CA*
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, *Fresno, CA*
Grassroots International, *Boston, MA*
Green For All, *Washington, DC*
Greene County Democrat (weekly newspaper), *Eutaw, AL*
Haitian International Youth Leadership Institute, *Shannon, NC*
Hazon & Jews for a Just Farm Bill, *New York, NY*
Hmong National Development, Inc., *Washington, DC*
Housing Assistance Council, *Washington, DC*
Hunger Action, LA, *Los Angeles, CA*
Indian Nations Conservation Alliance, *Twin Bridges, MT*
Intertribal Agriculture Council, *Billings, MT*
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, *Baltimore, MD*
Just Food, *New York, NY*
Land Stewardship Project, *Minneapolis, MN*
Live Real, *Boston, MA*
Local2Global Advocates for Justice, *Kansas City, KA*
Maine Rural Partners, *Orono, ME*
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, *East Troy, WI*
Michigan Young Farmer Coalition, *Troy, MI*
Minnesota Food Association, *Marine on St Croix, MN*
National Family Farm Coalition, *Washington, DC*
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc., *Fresno, CA*
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, *Washington, DC*
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, *Washington, DC*
New Mexico Acequia Association, *Santa Fe, NM*
North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project,
Durham, NC
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG), *New Paltz, NY*
Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, *Oklahoma City, OK*
Partnership for Citrus Workers Health, *Fellsmere, FL*
Phat Beets Produce, *Oakland, CA*
PLBA Housing Development Corporation, *Gainesville, AL*
Rooted In Community, *Berkeley, CA*
Rural Advancement Fund, *Orangeburg, SC*
Rural Advancement Foundation International, *Pittsboro, Nc*
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, *Washington, DC*
Sacramento Hunger Coalition, *Sacramento, CA*
San Diego 1in10 Coalition, *San Diego, CA*
San Diego Hunger Coalition, *San Diego, CA*
School Food FOCUS National Office, *New York, NY*
Slow Food California, *Sacramento, CA*

Slow Food USA, New York, NY

Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA), Los Angeles, CA

Taos County Economic Development Corp, Taos, NM

Texas/Mexico Border Coalition, San Isidro, TX

The Alliance Organic Community Garden, Houston, TX

United Farmers USA, Manning, SC

Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network, Mount Vernon, WA

Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, Austin, NV

World Farmers, Inc., Lancaster, MA

This letter was prepared and circulated by the signatories who regularly participate in the “Getting Our Act Together (GOAT) on the Farm Bill” Collaboration, which promotes a fair farm bill with equity and sustainability.