

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you consider programmatic requests in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural, Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, we urge you fully fund the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and urban agriculture data collection at the levels authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The legislation provides \$25,000,000 for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Sec.12302) and \$14,000,000 for the one-time data collection (Sec. 7212(b)).

Urban agriculture continues to be a growing sector of the U.S. agricultural economy and--with full funding and support for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production--more U.S. food can be grown in community gardens, greenhouses, warehouses, and on rooftops. Already, the use of urban agriculture and related growing technologies like hydroponics, aquaponics, greenhouses, and vertical production, is steadily growing in cities, suburbs, and towns across our country. These innovations create new economic opportunities and healthier communities. Urban agriculture technologies increase food availability and lower food costs, which is especially important in communities with limited access to affordable, fresh produce. The more frequent use of these technologies could help to combat hunger and improve access to healthy foods in food deserts across the country.

The Office for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production at the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides support to urban farmers creating or expanding their businesses, encourages and promotes indoor agriculture and other emerging practices, and helps growers collaborate with new partners, navigate complex programs, and employ best practices. The Office also awards grants to support the development of urban agriculture and is undertaking two pilot programs: a ten-county pilot of Urban & Suburban County Committees, and a community compost and food waste reduction pilot. As urban and suburban farming expand across the country, the demand on the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production will only grow, making it important to expeditiously ensure that the office is established and fully funded.

The urban agriculture data collection, a one-time study, will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture and policymakers better understand the landscape of urban agriculture across the

Nation. This information will be critical to effective policy development and outreach carried out by the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

Urban farms have demonstrated success and offer exciting opportunities for more communities to engage in agriculture production. Federal investments are necessary to support additional innovative farming systems.

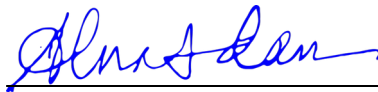
We appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering with you to support urban agriculture and promote the forward progress of U.S. agricultural science and technology.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



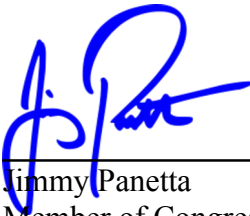
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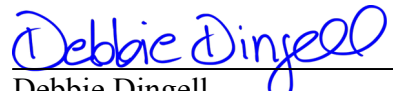
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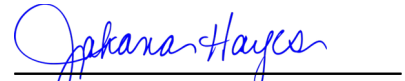



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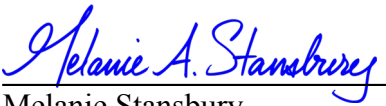

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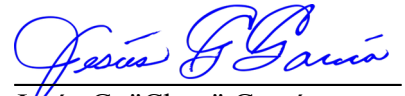

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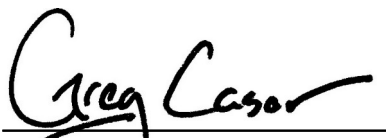

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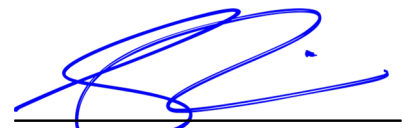

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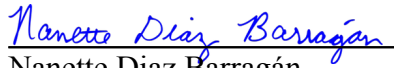

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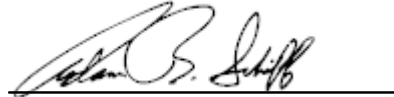
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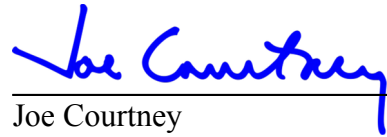
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