

May 8, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman
Chari, Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking, Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
Chair, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking, House Agriculture Committee

Dear Chair Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chair Thompson, and Ranking Member Craig:

The federal farm bill touches every aspect of American life – from farmers and ranchers to rural development, conservation, domestic and international markets, and agricultural supply chains. There is, quite simply, no replacement for the strategic investments a farm bill makes in livelihoods here at home. Since President Trump signed the Agriculture Improvement Act into law in 2018, it has served as a testament to bipartisanship - not a perfect farm bill, but one that reflected compromise and made key investments across each title of the bill to help invest in and grow our food and farm system.

Yet, today, more than six years removed from enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, our country and our world - and the challenges facing farmers and ranchers - have moved well beyond those addressed in 2018. Consequently, we believe it is paramount to prioritize a new, full farm bill - one that meets the moment and invests in the breadth and diversity of American agriculture - over temporary legislative patches that benefit few and harm many while simultaneously undercutting the chance for a new farm bill.

For over 40 years, Congress has turned to budget reconciliation to achieve not only budget reductions but in some cases budget increases. During that time, programs within the jurisdiction of the Congressional Agriculture Committees have been consistently implicated - farm bill funding cuts through reconciliation were made in 1982, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1996, and 2006. However, the scope of reductions in these instances pales in comparison to those being proposed through the 2025 budget reconciliation process. The call for \$230 billion, if not more, in reductions to farm bill programs is unprecedented and will directly undermine the opportunity for a new farm bill anytime soon by removing hundreds of billions of dollars from the farm bill baseline. Jeopardizing a full farm bill, in turn, will jeopardize long overdue investments in the next generation of farmers, critical research, rural development, new markets, and so much more.

Moreover, the proposed reductions within the Agriculture Committees’ jurisdiction appear likely to fall heavily on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The on-the-ground reality is that these reductions threaten not only hungry individuals, children, and families, but the bottom

line for farmers and rural grocers from coast to coast. A \$230 billion reduction in SNAP funding will lead to a direct negative impact on the farm sector totaling tens of billions of dollars.

Reductions to mandatory farm bill programs through budget reconciliation - no matter through which title of the farm bill those cuts are achieved - will negatively impact economic opportunity for American farmers. Meanwhile, increasing spending for some mandatory farm bill programs through budget reconciliation for the benefit of an elite few will only deepen harmful cuts. In total, the scope and scale of likely budget reductions will serve to erase the near future opportunity for a full farm bill that makes needed updates to farm policy and invests in the future of all of American agriculture.

We ask that you stand for a new, full farm bill by rejecting and opposing any and all approaches to budget reconciliation that will reduce market opportunities for farmers and lessen the likelihood of a much-needed full farm bill.

Sincerely,

National Farmer-Serving Organizations

Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment
Certified Naturally Grown, Inc
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Good Egg Marketing
Land For Good
Mobile Market Coalition
National Family Farm Coalition
National Organic Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Young Farmers Coalition
NCAT
North American Food Systems Network
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Trade Association
Regenerative Agriculture Coalition
Roots of Change
Rural Advancement Foundation International
Rural Coalition
Stewards Unlimited, LLC
Taste the Local Difference

The Common Market
The Food Trust
US Composting Council
American Indian Mothers Inc.
Slow Food USA

Regional, State, and Local Farmer-Serving Organizations

A Greater Applegate
Ag & Food Lab
Alaska Farmers Market Association
Alaska Food Policy Council
Appalachian Sustainable Development
Arkansas Farmers Market Association
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers Union (Ohio)
Barre Unified Union School District
Berkshire Grown, Inc.
Beyond Pesticides
Boulder County Farmers Markets
Bowling Green ISD
Butte County Local Food Network
California Climate and Agriculture Network
Center for Rural Affairs
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Climate Land Leaders
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Community Farmer Alliance
Crop Swap LA
Cultivate Kansas City
Cultivating Community
Cypress Valley Meat Company
Equity Advocates
Farm Fresh Rhode Island
Farm School NYC
Farm to Institution New England
Farm2People
Farmers Rising
Feeding Colorado

Flagstaff Foodlink & Coconino Grower Coalition
Food Bank of Alaska
Food Connects
Food Link
Food Works
FoodShare South Carolina
Foodshed Alliance
Foodshed Cooperative
Fresh Approach
FRESHFARM
FreshFarm Markets
Georgia Organics
GoFarm
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities
Grow Food Northampton
Grow Pittsburgh
Grow Your Own Meal, Inc.
Harvest Food Systems
Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture
Homer Farmers Market
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Iowa Food System Coalition
Iowa Valley RC&D
Just Harvest
Kansas Rural Center
Keystone Development Center
Lettuce Turnip the Beet Sustainability Collective
Louisiana Food Policy Council
Maine Farmland Trust
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Marbleseed
Maryland Food Bank
Massachusetts Farm to School
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
Michigan Farmers Market Association
Michigan Food and Farming Systems
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program
Mile High Farmers
Montana Food Bank Network

Montana Land to Hand
Mountain Resource Center
Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market
New Community Project/Vine & Fig
New Connecticut Farmer Alliance
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
NJ Food Democracy Collaborative
North Jersey RC&D
Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
Northern Plains Resource Council
Nourish Colorado
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
OKC Food Hub
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Food Bank
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Pinnacle Prevention
Pittsburgh Food Justice Fund Committee
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
RESET Inc
Rhode Island Food Policy Council
Roanoke Foodshed Network
Rural Action
San Diego Food System Alliance
San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
Seven Generations Ahead / IL Farm to School Network
Sierra Harvest
Somali Bantu Community Association of Maine
Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance
Sowing Growth, Inc.
Sprout
Steady Harvest LLC

Sun Produce Cooperative
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust
Switch Gears Farm
Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance
Tall Grass Food Box
The BIPOC Rise Moor Healing Center
The Campaign Against Hunger
The Food Group
The Land Connection
The Marion Institute, Inc.
The Nashville Food Project
Toxic Free North Carolina
Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
UpRoot Colorado
Vermont FEED
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Western Organization of Resource Councils
WFAN

CC:

Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)
Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA-4)
Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-8)
All Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees