NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION

November 20, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman (R-AR)
Chair
Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15)
Chair
House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Angie Craig (D-MN-2)
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee

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

Thank you for your leadership in pursuit of a new farm bill.

As you know, farmers and ranchers have been facing mounting challenges – from rising costs to unstable and uncertain markets – with an outdated farm bill ill-equipped to support them in overcoming those challenges. Our members have been clear that status quo farm policy is not a solution. Instead, they're calling for a farm bill that invests new, permanent funding across all titles rather than picking winners and losers. Our farmers deserve nothing less.

While the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) appreciates the scattered positives in the House and Senate draft farm bills, we urge you to work toward a bipartisan farm bill that eliminates deep cuts to popular, oversubscribed conservation programs, levels the playing field for family farmers, and invests meaningful, permanent resources in building domestic markets for local and regional farmers.

We seek a farm bill that will:

- **Fully fund and strengthen popular and oversubscribed conservation programs:** The House and Senate have proposed cutting the Conservation Stewardship Program by as much as $1 billion, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program by as much as $1.9 billion. These cuts are unacceptable and should be eliminated with new funding resources from outside of the farm bill. Congress should also strengthen these programs by including Agriculture Resilience Act provisions that improve programs' ability to help farmers adapt to drought and extreme weather, transition to organic, and move into longer-term conservation stewardship.
- **Provide annual mandatory funding to boost domestic markets through local procurement:** The Senate bill included a bipartisan agreement to make a one-time investment of $400 million in

mandatory funding for the Strengthening Local Food Security Program that will deliver reliable markets for our farmers, more jobs, and economic activity, while increasing access to nutritious foods. This investment must be protected in any farm bill that moves forward. To adequately support this work over the full farm bill cycle, the program should achieve $200 million annually in mandatory funding.

- **Maintain the higher Senate authorization limit for the New, Mobile, and Expanded Meat and Poultry Processing and Rendering Grants:** Both House and Senate versions of the Bill include this program, but the higher $25 million authorization in the Senate version is necessary for this program to be able to reach processors and the ranchers they serve across the country. This program will support other market access programs and support our nation's meat processors in serving both farmers and the families they feed.
- **Expand and strengthen our regional food supply chains:** Senators have put forth a bipartisan solution to ensure local processing and distribution capacity can meet growing demand. The American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act should be included to support investments in processing, storage, and distribution of specialty crops, grain, dairy, and seafood, among other domestic products.
- **Increase access to credit and strengthen protections for borrowers:** Families who choose the challenging path of farming should have access to affordable start-up financing and receive adequate protection as borrowers. The Fair Credit for Farmers Act (FCFA) would strengthen farmer-borrowers' rights by improving transparency and fairness across lending processes, increase access to credit, remove arbitrary term limits on direct operating loans, and protect farmers' homes by limiting over-collateralization.
- **Support the next generation of family farmers:** The House has put forth a bipartisan solution to support young and beginning farmers as they overcome barriers to starting and continuing to farm. The New Producer Economic Security Act would help secure our domestic food system by investing directly in an array of efforts aimed at improving access to land, capital, and markets for young and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- **Secure a two-year Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cost-shift delay, at minimum:** The consequences of H.R. 1 will soon bring devastating impacts to state budgets nationwide, resulting in limited nutrition assistance and cuts to school funding and other essential resources in communities around the country.

We are eager to work with you to ensure that a 2026 farm bill meets the mark and lives up to the standards of what farmers, ranchers, and communities have called for.

Sincerely,



Mike Lavender, NSAC Policy Director

Cc: Majority Leader John Thune; Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker Mike Johnson; Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.