

February 21, 2017

Senate Budget Committee Chair Mike Enzi  
Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Bernard Sanders  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

House Budget Committee Interim Chair Diane Black  
House Budget Committee Ranking Member John Yarmuth  
U.S. House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Thad Cochran  
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

House Appropriations Committee Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen  
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned organizations, representing America's agriculture, nutrition, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy, trade, local government, plant/animal health, agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, labor, outdoor recreation, equipment manufacturing, cooperatives, hunters, anglers and crop insurance sectors, strongly urge you to reject calls for additional cuts to policies within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry or the House Committee on Agriculture.

Almost three years ago, Congress passed a bipartisan farm bill that made a significant contribution to deficit reduction. This bipartisan legislation was estimated to contribute \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years at the time of passage. This was the first time a farm bill voluntarily reduced spending before Congress began considering the bill. It was the only reauthorization bill in that Congress that voluntarily offered savings. These difficult cuts resulted from hard choices made to reform and reduce the farm safety net, conservation initiatives, and nutrition assistance.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) January 2017 baseline estimates that the 2014 Farm Bill has cost far less than projected. According to CBO, nutrition and crop insurance alone will spend nearly \$100 billion less, while mandatory federal spending outside the Agriculture Committees' jurisdiction has risen over the same time period.

We have all begun preparing for the 2018 Farm Bill and recognize that passing a bill with additional funding reductions would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. Therefore, as the Senate and House Agriculture Committees begin preparing for the 2018 Farm Bill, it is imperative that the committees not be hamstrung by further budget or appropriations cuts to any farm bill program. Instead, we strongly encourage you to recognize the substantial savings already achieved, which far exceed expectations, and to provide the committees the opportunity to complete their work through regular order, without arbitrary budget cuts or caps. With the agriculture and rural economy struggling, households across the country struggling to meet their basic needs for nutrition, and farm income down 46 percent from only three years ago, it would be perilous to hinder development and passage of the 2018 Farm Bill with further cuts.

During consideration of the 2014 Farm Bill, the Agriculture Committees made the difficult choices necessary to deliver a bipartisan bill. Budget cuts made in that bill should be recognized as Agriculture's contribution to deficit reduction. We know the committees will once again face challenging budgetary and policy choices in the development of the 2018 Farm Bill. That is why it is so important you ensure the committee process for the farm bill can proceed with some budget flexibility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Ag Processing Inc AgChoice  
Farm Credit AgCountry Farm  
Credit Services AgCredit  
AgFirst Farm Credit Bank  
AgGeorgia Farm Credit, ACA  
AgriBank, FCB  
Agriculture Energy Coalition  
AgStar Financial Services, ACA  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Food Bank Association  
Alabama Peanut Producers Association  
Alabama Soybean & Corn Association  
Alaska Food Coalition  
Aldo Leopold Foundation, Inc.  
Algae Biomass Organization

Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Agri-Women  
American Agriculture Movement Inc.  
American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Association of Bovine  
Practitioners  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Association of Mycobacterial  
Diseases  
American Bankers Association  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Crystal Sugar Company  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farm Bureau Insurance Services,  
Inc.

American Farmland Trust  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Fisheries Society  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Forests  
American Heart Association  
American Insurance Association  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Rivers  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sesame Growers Association  
American Sheep Industry  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Water Works Association  
American Wood Council  
AmericanHort  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Archery Trade Association  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arizona Pork Council  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
Arkansas Wildlife Federation  
Aspen American Insurance Company

Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Arizona Food Banks  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Association of Kansas Food Banks  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies  
Audubon Arizona  
Audubon Arkansas  
Audubon California  
Audubon Center at Riverlands  
Audubon Connecticut  
Audubon Dakota  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Audubon Minnesota  
Audubon Mississippi  
Audubon Nebraska  
Audubon New York  
Audubon North Carolina  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Audubon Pennsylvania  
Audubon Rockies  
Audubon South Carolina  
Audubon Texas  
Audubon Vermont  
Audubon Washington  
Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm  
Aurora Cooperative  
B.A.S.S. LLC

BEARTOOTH FERTILIZER INC  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Blue Diamond Growers  
Bluestem Communications  
Bongards Creameries  
Bread for the World  
C&H Associates  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Association of Resource  
Conservation Districts  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Pork Producers Association  
California Rice Commission  
CarbonVerde, LLC  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Center for Heirs' Property Preservation  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Central Aroostook Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
CGB Diversified Services  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
CHS Inc.  
City Bank Texas  
CoBank, ACB  
Colorado Sorghum Association  
Colorado Wildlife Federation  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Cooperative Network  
Cottonseed and Feed Association  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Science Society of America  
D.C. Hunger Solutions  
Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative  
Delaware Association of Conservation  
Districts

Delaware Farm Bureau  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
eGovernment Payments Council of the  
Electronic Funds Transfer Association  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Empower Missouri  
End Hunger Connecticut! Endangered  
Habitats League Entomological Society of  
America Environmental and Energy Study  
Institute Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales  
Association  
Fair Food Network  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Credit East  
Farm Credit Mid-America Farm  
Credit of the Virginias Farm  
Credit Services of America  
Farmer Mac  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
Federation of Virginia Food Banks  
Feeding America  
Feeding Illinois  
Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
Feeding Pennsylvania  
Feeding Texas  
Feeding Wisconsin  
First District Association  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Forestry Association  
Florida Impact  
Florida Peanut Producers Association  
Food Bank Council of Michigan  
Food Bank of Alaska

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
FoodCorps  
Food Pantry  
Forest Stewards Guild  
Forestry Association of South Carolina  
Freestore Foodbank  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Garden Valley Neighborhood House  
Generations United  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Georgia Food Bank Association  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
Great American Insurance Group  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
GreenStone Farm Credit Services  
Growth Energy  
GROWMARK  
Hardwood Federation  
Headwaters Chapter, Izaak Walton League  
of America  
Hudson Crop Insurance Services  
Humboldt State University Dept. of Forestry  
Hunger Free Colorado  
Hunger Free Vermont  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Hunger Solutions New York  
Hunger Task Force  
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force  
Idaho Wildlife Federation  
Illinois Council Trout Unlimited  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Independent Community Bankers of  
America  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of  
America  
Indiana Farm Bureau

Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners  
Association  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Intertribal Timber Council  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Irrigation Association  
Islamic Relief USA  
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and  
Justice  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Cooperative Council  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers  
Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Kentucky Association of Food Banks  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Kentucky  
Soybean Association Kiddie City  
Child Care Community Land Trust  
Alliance  
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education  
& Policy, Teachers College Columbia  
University  
Lee Miles Hunger Center  
Louisiana Association of Cooperstives  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Food Bank Association  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Wildlife Federation  
Lower Clear Fork SWCD  
Lower Mississippi River Foundation  
Lutheran Services in America  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Massachusetts Association of Conservation  
Districts  
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation,  
Inc.  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Meals on Wheels America  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Forest Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Mid-Ohio Foodbank  
Mid-West Dairymen's Co.  
MidAtlantic Farm Credit  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education  
Service- MOSES  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Minnesota Milk Producers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Peanut Growers Association  
Mississippi Pork Producers  
Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation  
Missouri Pork Association  
Missouri Soybean Association  
MKC  
Montana Association of Christians  
Montana Cattlemen's Associaton

Montana Cattlemen's Association  
Foundation  
Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
Montana Food Bank Network  
Montana Food Security Council  
Montana Grain Growers Association  
Montana Partnership to End Childhood  
Hunger  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
N.C. Association of Food Banks  
National All-Jersey  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Anti-Hunger Organizations  
National Association for the Advancement  
of Animal Science  
National Association of Clean Water  
Agencies  
National Association of Conservation  
Districts  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Farmer Elected  
Committees  
National Association of Forest Service  
Retirees  
National Association of Mutual Insurance  
Companies  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging  
Services Programs  
National Association of Plant Breeders  
National Association of Professional  
Insurance Agents  
National Association of Resource  
Conservation & Development (RC&D)  
Councils  
National Association of Retired ASCS/FSA  
OfficeEmployees  
National Association of State Departments  
of Agriculture  
National Association of State Foresters

National Association of University Forest  
Resource Programs  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Barley Improvement Committee  
National Black Growers Council  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Christmas Tree Association  
National Co-op Grocers  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural  
Research  
National Conservation District Employees  
Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners' Association  
National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Council on Aging  
National Deer Alliance  
National Farm to School Network  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Organic Coalition  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Peach Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Woodland Owners Association  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
NAU Country Insurance Company  
NC Forestry Association

Nebraska Appleseed  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board  
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers  
Association  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
Nebraska Wheat Board  
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association  
Nevada Wildlife Federation  
New England Forestry Foundation  
New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition  
New Jersey Farm Bureau  
New Mexico Appleseed  
New Mexico Sorghum Association  
New Mexico Association of Food Banks  
New Mexico Wildlife Federation  
New York Farm Bureau  
North Carolina Farm Bureau  
North Carolina Pork Council  
North Central Weed Science Society  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast Organic Farming Association --  
Interstate Council  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of  
New York  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of  
Vermont  
Northwest Farm Credit Services NTCA--  
The Rural Broadband Association Ohio  
AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Association of Foodbanks  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio River Foundation

Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Association of Conservation  
Districts  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
Oklahoma Sorghum Association  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc.  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Food Bank  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Organic Trade Association  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel St. Vincent dePaul  
Society  
PA Association of Conservation Districts  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
PennFuture  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
People's Community Church  
Personal Ag Management  
Pheasants Forever  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Pollinator Partnership  
Prairie Rivers Network  
Producers Cooperative Association  
Project Bread  
Public Health Institute  
PYCO Industries, Inc.  
Quail Forever  
Rain and Hail Insurance Society  
Resource Management Service, LLC  
RESULTS  
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
Rural Advancement Foundational  
International  
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

School Nutrition Association  
Second Harvest Food Bank CCL  
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central  
Ohio  
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning  
Valley  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
Share Our Strength  
Shared Harvest Foodbank  
Shoesole Management Team  
Silveus Insurance Group  
SNF Agriculture  
Society for Nutrition Education and  
Behavior  
Society of American Foresters  
Society of St. Andrew  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Cleveland  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice  
Center  
South Carolina Farm Bureau  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Dakota Farm Bureau  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers  
Association  
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration  
Collaborative  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southern States Cooperative  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Southwest Georgia Farm Credit  
Soyfoods Associaton of North America  
Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida

Sustainable Northwest  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Justice Center  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
The American Chestnut Foundation  
The American Phytopathological Society  
The Community Pantry  
The Conservation Fund  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Food Depot  
The Food Trust  
The Foodbank, Inc.  
The Hardwood Federation  
The Izaak Walton League of America  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Lyme Timber Company  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Wetlands Initiative  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
TN Environmental Council  
Trout Unlimited  
U.S. Apple Association  
US Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Sweet Potato Council USA  
Dry Pea & Lentil Council Union  
of Concerned Scientists United  
Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United Way Worldwide  
US Rice Producers Association

USA Rice  
Utahns Against Hunger  
Vermont Foodbank  
Vineyard Community Church  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Washington Association of Conservation  
Districts  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington Farm Forestry Association  
Watershed Research & Training Center  
Weed Science Society of America  
West Ohio Food Bank  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Western Growers Association  
Western Landowners Alliance  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western Society of Weed Science  
Western United Dairymen  
Wholesome Wave  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi  
Windmark Crop Division, City Bank Texas  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Wisconsin Pork Association  
Women Involved in Farm Economics  
WoodWorks - Wood Products Council  
Wyoming Farm Bureau  
World Wildlife Fund  
Wyoming Wildlife Federation