

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
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
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 Dairyman'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 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 Dairywomen
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