

The Honorable John Yarmuth, Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Smith, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

America's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers are at the fulcrum of multiple challenges: the pandemic, the need to strengthen our interconnected food and agricultural systems, the inequity in those systems, climate change, and competition from other countries like China to feed the growing world population while still meeting our country's nutritional needs.

We strongly urge you to increase the 302(a) allocations for appropriations committees in Fiscal Year 2023 and subsequent 302(b) allocations for the respective agriculture appropriations subcommittees to significantly increase discretionary funding for crucial U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs to help our farmers and rural America.

Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers are the lifeblood of our rural communities and economies. Agriculture and food contribute \$1.109 trillion to the U.S. GDP and account for 10.9 percent of U.S. employment.<sup>1</sup>

Strengthening investments in USDA programs will help rebuild our rural communities, enhance our agriculture and food system, provide solutions to climate change, and protect our national security. USDA's programs provide significant value by:

- 1.) providing crop insurance, conservation and technical assistance programs, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs for farmers, ranchers, and other stewards of private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/ag-and-food-sectors-and-the-economy/>

- 2.) working to end hunger across the United States and improve the health of all Americans.
- 3.) protecting the public from foodborne illness and ensuring our supply of U.S. food products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled
- 4.) delivering science and innovation to our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, giving them the tools needed to help mitigate the impacts of challenges facing our world, while still improving our Nation's food security
- 5.) improving our rural economy and quality of life in our rural communities by providing financial support for essential public facilities and services, which include broadband, electric and telephone service, emergency service facilities, health clinics, housing, and water and sewer systems
- 6.) helping farmers, ranchers, and producers compete globally by promoting exports of U.S. agricultural products
- 7.) Helping farmers, ranchers, and producers adapt to a changing climate by offering research innovations such as disease-resistant and heat-tolerant varieties and proven practices that maintain or improve on-farm productivity and profitability.

Public investment should reflect how crucial rural America, agriculture, and food security is to our national security. We look forward to working with you to increase investments in USDA's programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AFRI Coalition  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science

American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Soybean Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of 1890 Research Directors  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Carbon180  
Colorado State University  
Corn Refiners Association  
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)  
Crop Science Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Eversole Associates  
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy  
Farm Journal Foundation  
FASS  
Institute of Food Technologists  
International Alliance for Phytobiomes Research  
International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium  
IR-4 Project  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB)  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Barley Improvement Committee  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences  
Plant Based Products Council  
Poultry Science Association  
SoAR Foundation  
Society for Range Management  
Soil Science Society of America  
The Breakthrough Institute  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
United States Golf Association

US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
USA Rice  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Western Growers