

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jodey Arrington  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brendan Boyle  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Whitehouse and Arrington and Ranking Members Grassley and Boyle:

As you develop the fiscal year 2024 budget in this farm bill reauthorization year, we write to express our strong support for providing the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and House Committee on Agriculture with sufficient budgetary resources to write a new bipartisan, multi-year, comprehensive, and meaningful piece of legislation.

Just as there are many pressures on the federal budget, there are many pressures on U.S. farmers and others throughout the agricultural supply chain who provide food, feed, fuel, fiber, and other products to consumers across the United States and abroad.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), international sales of U.S. farm and food products reached \$196 billion in 2022. The leading market for these products is marked with geopolitical volatility: China. During the trade war with China that began in 2018, U.S. agriculture endured significant market impacts, which unfortunately revealed gaps in the farm safety net. If a trade war with our largest trading partner hardly triggered the farm safety net provided in the current farm bill – a Title I safety net that has been shrinking over the past 20 years – it is difficult to envision a scenario that would provide meaningful assistance without significant improvements. Continuing rising tensions with this important trading partner underscore the need in the next farm bill for a more meaningful, predictable farm safety net and the need to invest more into trade promotion programs to help diversify agricultural markets.

Market volatility with China is only one example of the many disruptions impacting U.S. agriculture during the life of the current farm bill. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, COVID-19 and other supply chain disruptions, non-tariff trade barriers erected by multiple countries, and devastating natural disasters have tested the effectiveness of current farm policy. Increased production input costs have as well, with USDA projecting that most expense categories will remain above their 2021 levels in 2023 both in nominal and inflation-adjusted dollars. These projected high input costs, coupled with lower projections for many crop cash receipts, are cause for concern for farm country: USDA's February 2023 Farm Income Forecast publication projects a 20.7 percent decline in net cash farm income in 2023 relative to 2022.

Projections such as this, when realized, often result in financial stress and calls for ad hoc or supplemental disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers – that is, assistance outside of the farm bill. In fact, between 2018-2021, ad hoc assistance made up approximately 70% of direct farm payments due to challenges described above. Ad hoc assistance is necessary in times of need but is not a timely, reliable, or predictable safety net for farmers and ranchers. The upcoming farm bill reauthorization provides an opportunity to address very real needs in agriculture and rely less on off-budget ad hoc assistance.

In addition to needs highlighted above, farm bill budget resources are needed for protecting and enhancing crop insurance to assist with volatile weather and crop loss, improving access to voluntary conservation incentives, addressing rural development needs, investing in research for innovation and competitiveness, providing opportunities to help the nation become more energy independent and food secure, and supporting solutions to address logistics challenges.

Sufficient budgetary resources will be needed to craft a new bipartisan, multi-year, comprehensive, and meaningful piece of legislation. As you work to build the federal budget for fiscal year 2024, we seek your support for providing sufficient resources to the committees to craft the next farm bill.

Sincerely,

National Associations

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Amcot  
American Agri-Women  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Bankers Association  
American Cotton Producers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association

American Veterinary Medical Association  
AmericanHort  
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
The Breakthrough Institute  
Cherry Marketing Institute  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Cottonseed and Feed Association  
Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Science Society of America  
CropLife America  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Journal Foundation  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Hop Growers of America  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
International Certified Crop Advisers  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Fresh Produce Association  
National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance  
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Black Growers Council  
National Christmas Tree Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association

National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Council of Textile Organizations  
National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grange  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Onion Association  
National Peach Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
North American Blueberry Council  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Quail Forever  
Rural and Agriculture Council of America  
Society of American Florists  
Soil Science Society of America  
Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance  
Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
U.S. Durum Growers Association  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
U.S. Rice Producers  
U.S. Sweet Potato Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
Weed Science Society of America  
Wine Institute

State and Regional Associations

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Alabama Bankers Association  
Alabama Cotton Commission  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
Almond Alliance  
Arizona Cotton Ginners Association  
Arizona Cotton Growers  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Community Bankers  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
Arkansas Rice Growers Association  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
BankIn Minnesota  
Bluegrass Community Bankers Association  
California Agricultural Irrigation Association  
California Alfalfa & Forage Association  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Bean Shippers Association  
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Community Banking Network  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Grain & Feed Association  
California Pear Growers  
California Pork Producers Association  
California Rice Commission  
California Seed Association  
California Specialty Crops Council  
California State Floral Association  
California Sweetpotato Council  
California Table Grape Commission  
California Warehouse Association  
California Women for Agriculture  
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative

Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado Farm Bureau  
Colorado Potato Legislative Association  
Community Bankers Association of Georgia  
Community Bankers Association of Illinois  
Community Bankers Association of Kansas  
Community Bankers Association of Ohio  
Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma  
Community Bankers of Iowa  
Community Bankers of Michigan  
Community Bankers of Washington  
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association  
Corn Growers of North Carolina  
Cotton Producers of Missouri  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Delaware Farm Bureau  
Delta Council  
Empire State Potato Growers  
Florida Agri-Women  
Florida Cotton Producers Association  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Rice Growers  
Food Producers of Idaho  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Corn Growers Association  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation  
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Urban Agriculture Council  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
Hop Growers of Washington  
ICBA of New Mexico  
Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Growers Association  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Idaho Hay and Forage Association  
Idaho Hop Growers Association  
Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association

Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association  
Idaho Oilseed Commission  
Idaho Onion Growers' Association  
Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Idaho Pest Management Association  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Independent Bankers Association of New York State  
Independent Banks of South Carolina  
Independent Community Bankers of Colorado  
Independent Community Bankers of South Dakota  
Independent Community Banks of North Dakota  
Indiana Bankers Association  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Cotton Association  
Kansas Cotton Ginners  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kentucky Corn Growers Association  
Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association  
Louisiana Bankers Association  
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Independent Cotton Warehouse Association  
Louisiana Rice Producer Group

Maine Farm Bureau Association  
Maine Potato Board  
Malheur County Onion Growers Association  
Maryland Bankers Association  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
Maryland Grain Producers Association  
Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals  
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Corn Growers Association  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan IPM Alliance  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association  
Midwest Council on Agriculture  
Midwest Forage Association  
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council  
Minnesota Area II Potato Council  
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers  
Minnesota Canola Council  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Rice Council  
Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Independent Bankers Association  
Missouri Rice Council  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Montana Agricultural Business Association  
Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
Montana Independent Bankers  
Montana Potato Improvement Association  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association  
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission  
Nebraska Dry Pea and Lentil Commission

Nebraska Farm Bureau  
Nebraska Independent Community Bankers  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
Nebraska Wheat Board  
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association  
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation  
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau  
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York Green Industry Council  
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association  
North Carolina Bankers Association  
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Egg Association  
The North Carolina Peanut Growers Association  
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Carolina State Grange  
North Carolina SweetPotato Commission  
North Central Weed Science Society  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northarvest Bean Growers Association  
Northeast Dairy Producers Association  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Northern Canola Growers Association  
Northland Potato Growers Association  
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council  
NYS Agribusiness Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
Oklahoma Seed Trade Association  
Oklahoma Sorghum Growers

Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association  
Olive Oil Commission of California  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Bankers Association  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Hop Growers Association  
Oregon Potato Commission  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
Oregon Women for Agriculture  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter  
Pacific Coast Renderers Association  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association  
Pacific Seed Association  
Palmetto AgriBusiness Council  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
PennAg Industries Association  
Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers  
Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Plant California Alliance  
PNW Canola Association  
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.  
Puget Sound Seed Growers Association  
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers  
San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers  
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association  
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Corn Growers Association  
South Dakota Farm Bureau  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association

South Texas Cotton and Grain Association  
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, Inc.  
Southern Cotton Ginners Association  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Crop Production Association  
Southern Idaho Potato Cooperative  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Producers Association  
Southern Weed Science Society  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association  
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council  
Tennessee Bankers Association  
Tennessee Corn Growers Association  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Agri-Women  
Texas Association of Dairymen  
Texas Corn Producers Association  
Texas Cotton Ginners Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas Grain Sorghum Association  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas Soybean Association  
Texas Wheat Producers Association  
Vermont Bankers Association  
Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Association of Community Banks  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
The Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association  
Virginia Cotton Growers  
Virginia Crop Production Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Virginia Grain Producers Association  
Virginia Peanut Growers Association  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington Friends of Farms and Forests  
Washington Mint Growers Association  
Washington Potato and Onion Association

Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association  
Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western Plant Health Association  
Western Society of Weed Science  
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine  
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association  
Wisconsin Pork Association  
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association  
Wyoming Ag Business Association  
Wyoming Bankers Association  
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Budget  
Members of the House Committee on Budget  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture