

March 9, 2016

Addressed to:

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

House Budget Committee Budget Chair Tom Price  
House Budget Committee Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned 252 organizations, representing America's agriculture, nutrition, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy, trade, local government, labor, equipment manufacturing and crop insurance sectors, strongly urge you to reject calls for additional cuts to programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Two years ago, Congress passed a bipartisan farm bill that made a significant contribution to deficit reduction. This bipartisan legislation was estimated to contribute \$16 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years. These difficult cuts resulted from hard choices made to reform and reduce the farm safety net, conservation programs and nutrition assistance programs. Some of the reforms made in the new farm bill are still being implemented.

We urge you to oppose any additional cuts for the Agriculture Committees in the FY 2017 appropriations process as well as proposals to re-open any title of the farm bill during the consideration of the 2017 Budget Resolution. The Congressional Budget Office projects that mandatory farm bill spending will decline over the next five years, while mandatory federal spending outside the Agriculture Committees' jurisdiction will rise over the same time period.

We also urge you to refrain from including reconciliation instructions for either the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry or for the House Committee on Agriculture. These committees have already done the hard work to make the difficult choices necessary to deliver bipartisan cuts, which the farm and food community have accepted in securing agriculture's contribution to the goal of federal deficit reduction.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Ag Retailers Association  
AgFirst  
AgriBank, FCB  
AGSmarts  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
All Faiths Food Bank  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Ag Movement  
American Agri-Women  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Bankers Association  
American Commodity Distribution Association  
American Equipment Manufacturers  
American Farmland Trust  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Forests  
American Heart Association  
American Horticulture Industry Association  
American Insurance Association  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Rivers  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Audubon  
Audubon Rockies  
Berkley Conservation Institute  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Bluestem Communications  
Bowhunters of Wyoming  
Brazos Valley Food Bank  
Bread for the World  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Date Commission  
California Dried Plum Board  
California Fig Advisory Board  
California Walnut Commission  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas  
Cargill  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Chattanooga Area Food Bank  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
CoBank  
Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
Community Food Bank  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Life America  
Crop Science Society of America  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Delta Waterfowl  
Disciples Center for Public Witness  
Ducks Unlimited  
East Texas Food Bank  
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Fair Food Network  
Family Farm Alliance  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Council  
Farmer Mac  
Federation of Virginia Food Banks  
Feed the Children  
Feeding America

Feeding America San Diego  
Feeding Illinois  
Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
First Focus  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Food Bank of Corpus Christi  
Food Bank of Lincoln  
Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas  
Food Bank of the Albemarle  
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
Food For Friends Food Pantry  
Food For The World, Inc  
Food Gatherers  
Food Lifeline  
Food Supplement Program, Lincoln  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Galveston County Food Bank  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine  
Great Plains Food Bank  
Greater Boston Nazarene Compassionate Center Inc.  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
GROWMARK  
Growth Energy  
Hardwood Federation  
Harvesters--The Community Food Network  
Hawaii Sugar Farmers  
High Plains Food Bank  
Houston Food Bank  
ICNA Relief USA Central Florida  
Independent Community Bankers Association  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America,  
Inc.  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Kansas Rural Center  
Land Improvement Contractors of America  
Land O' Lakes  
Land Trust Alliance

Long Island Cares, Inc.--The Harry Chapin Food Bank  
Louisiana Food Bank Association  
Lowcountry Food Bank  
Lutheran Services in America  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Meat Importers Council of America, Inc.  
Mid-South Food Bank  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
MomsRising  
Mule Deer Foundation  
Muley Fanatic Foundation  
Nathan Hale Foundation  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees  
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies  
National Association of Nutrition Services Programs  
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents  
National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils  
National Association of State Conservation Agencies  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Black Growers Council  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Christmas Tree Association  
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Council on Aging  
National Deer Alliance  
National Farm to School Network

National Farmers Union  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Peach Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Renderers Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National WIC Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Women Involved in Farm Economics  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
New Hampshire Food Bank  
North Texas Food Bank  
NTCA -The Rural Broadband Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Philabundance  
Pollinator Partnership  
Prairie Rivers Network  
Quail Forever  
Quapaw Canoe Company  
Redwood Empire Food Bank  
Rehoboth Baptist Church of Boston  
RESULTS  
Rhode Island Community Food Bank  
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Farmers  
Roadrunner Food Bank  
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
School Nutrition Association  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County  
SF-Marin Food Bank  
Share Our Strength  
Shared Harvest Foodbank  
SNF, Inc.  
Society for Range Management  
Society of American Florists

Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southeast Texas Food Bank  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Soyfoods Association of North America  
St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida  
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.  
The American Cotton Shippers Association  
The Conservation Fund  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Food Trust  
The Foodbank, Inc.  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Salvation Army  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of  
Church and Society  
The Wetlands Initiative  
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Trust for Public Land  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Egg Producers  
United Way Worldwide  
US Apple Association  
US Beet Sugar Association  
US Canola Association  
US Cattlemen's Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Rice Producers Association  
US Sweet Potato Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
Virginia Peninsula Foodbank  
Water Environment Federation  
West Texas Food Bank  
Western Growers  
Western Landowners Alliance  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.  
Wholesome Wave

Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi