

December 2, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:

We write today to respectfully urge advancement of a comprehensive and bipartisan farm bill. Our group represents the numerous communities impacted by the passage of a bipartisan bill. We represent the agricultural, food security, and workforce development spheres that all have a stake in the farm bill and strongly believe Congress must pass a final bill as soon as possible.

We appreciate the ongoing commitment to bipartisanship and reauthorization discussions that prioritize providing support to farmers, addressing the challenges impacting agricultural communities, and expanding access to food security and workforce development for underserved populations. However, our communities are in need of a swift, updated, and bipartisan full five-year farm bill that creates an updated farm safety net, ensures families can put food on the table (by not cutting SNAP), and encourages individual self-sufficiency by growing our workforce.

In a recent [letter](#) from over 300 farm groups to Agriculture Committee leadership, they warned “a simple extension of current law would leave thousands of family farms with no options to continue producing for this nation in 2025 and beyond.” We know the farm bill is both a farm and food bill, so we are also concerned with the latest [Household Food Security](#) report which revealed that 47.4 million people lived in households experiencing food insecurity.

This translates to 1 in 7 American households struggling with food insecurity in 2023 and more individuals and families who rely on comprehensive nutrition programs – such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – to afford nutritious food. SNAP is the largest anti-hunger food assistance program and crucial tool in combating food insecurity; Congress must ensure that it is protected and strengthened in this farm bill and that barriers to accessing SNAP Employment & Training are addressed.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Thompson was cited in [The Hill](#) that the nation is “facing, by all metrics, a farm and food crisis that’s only going to get worse — unless we show some leadership and provide some hope and certainty.” Our communities can’t wait for another extension. We need Congress to work towards a bipartisan deal that ensures robust security for farmers and families in need of farm and food security and addresses barriers to accessing nutrition and training assistance.

We thank you and members of your committees for your consideration of this matter and please do not hesitate to contact Leah Bacon at lebacon@ceoworks.org should you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

<i>412 Food Rescue *</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>America Forward</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Appetite for Change</i>	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
<i>Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Church World Service *</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Citizens for Prison Reform</i>	<i>Lansing, MI</i>
<i>Common Threads *</i>	<i>National</i>
<i>Conservation Corps of Long Beach</i>	<i>Long Beach, CA</i>
<i>Crossroads Campus</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>
<i>Dietitian Jess Nutrition</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>FareStart</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Farming Hope</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<i>Hillbilly Harvest Co.</i>	<i>Morgantown, WV</i>
<i>Hunger Action Los Angeles</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Jefferson County Food Policy Council *</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>Just Harvest</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Legal Action Center</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>LIFT Inc</i>	<i>CA, DC, IL, NY</i>
<i>Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>MI-CURE</i>	<i>Kalamazoo, MI</i>
<i>Mid-Ohio Food Collective</i>	<i>Columbus, OH</i>
<i>NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Ohio Association of Foodbanks</i>	<i>Columbus, OH</i>
<i>Orion</i>	<i>Auburn, WA</i>
<i>Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Pittsburgh Food Policy Council</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Quiet Heart Music</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>

** indicates organizations who signed on to this letter after it was distributed to Agriculture Committee leadership on Dec 2, 2024*

Reimagine Appalachia

Repowered

*Rise Up WV **

Safer Foundation

SE Ohio Foodbank

The Foodbank, Inc.

*The Food Trust **

The Greater Boston Food Bank

The Gubbio Project

Valeo Vocation

Vehicles for Change

West Ohio Food Bank

Wildfire

Ohio River Valley (KY, OH, PA, WV)

St. Paul, MN

Charleston, WV

Chicago, IL

Logan, OH

Dayton, OH

Philadelphia, PA

Boston, MA

San Francisco, CA

Tacoma, WA

Baltimore, MD

Lima, OH

Phoenix, AZ

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