

November 13, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-148, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Whip Hoyer:

The undersigned organizations, representing the farming, livestock, specialty crop, feed, rural development, nutrition, health, conservation, woodland owners, municipalities, trade, manufacturing, agricultural research, crop insurance and renewable energy communities, respectfully request passage of a new five-year farm bill to be signed into law before the end of the legislative session in December 2012.

This legislation is of paramount importance to the diverse, bipartisan constituencies our organizations represent. Failure to pass a new five-year farm bill before the year's end will create significant budget uncertainty for the entire agricultural sector, including the rural businesses and lenders whose livelihoods are dependent upon farmers' and livestock producers' economic viability.

Additionally, our country is recovering from the largest drought since the 1930s, with most of the counties across the nation being declared agricultural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at some point during 2012, and 55 percent of the nation's pasture and rangeland rated in poor to very poor condition. This year alone, several states have ranked in the driest third percentile on record. These historic conditions and their damaging economic effects cannot be ignored.

For these reasons, we stand united in our strong support for a new five-year bill; any temporary extension would be a short-sighted, inadequate solution that would leave our constituencies crippled by uncertainty. Both the Senate and the House Committee on Agriculture passed versions of a five-year farm bill with strong bipartisan support. We urge you to lead your colleagues in passing a new 2012 Farm Bill this year. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

25x'25 Alliance  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Advanced Biofuels USA  
Ag Energy Coalition  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas  
Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters  
American Agriculture Movement  
American Association of Avian Pathologists

American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Biogas Council  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
American Corn Growers Institute for Public Policy  
American Farmland Trust  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Forests  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Horse Council  
American Nursery & Landscape Association  
American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Associated Milk Producers, Inc.  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Audubon Society of New Hampshire  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy  
Berkshire Co-op Market  
Berkshire Grown  
Bio Feedstock Industry Association  
Biomass Power Association  
Bird's Haven Farms  
Blue Diamond Growers  
California Apple Commission  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Blueberry Commission  
California Cherry Export Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fresh Tomato Growers  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
California Pear Growers  
California Table Grape Commission  
California Water Environment Association  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy  
Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc.  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.  
Columbia Land Trust  
The Conservation Fund

Crop Science Society of America  
Cumberland Land Trust  
Doug Goehring, North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture  
East Quabbin Land Trust  
Ecological Farming Association  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Exergy Integrated Systems  
Fair Food Network  
Family Dairies USA  
Farm Fresh Rhode Island  
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.  
Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS)  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Gardening the Community  
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Great Peninsula Conservancy  
Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter Buy Fresh Buy Local  
Greenhorns  
Growth Energy  
Hartford Food System, Inc.  
Hmong National Development, Inc.  
Hungry Hollow Co-op  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA)  
Indian Nations Conservation Alliance  
Indian River Citrus League  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
International Biochar Initiative  
Intervale Center  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.  
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey  
Land O'Lakes  
Land Stewardship Project  
Land Trust Alliance  
Livestock Marketing Association  
Lodi Winegrape Commission  
The Lyme Timber Company  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine Rural Partners  
Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers  
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

The Massachusetts Farm to School Project  
Michigan Apple Association  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (MDA) Multistate Initiative  
National Aquaculture Association  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science (NAAAS)  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils  
National Association of State Conservation Agencies  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Berry Crops Initiative  
National Biodiesel Board  
National Cooperative Business Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Agricultural Employers  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farm to School Network  
National Farmers Organization  
National Farmers Union  
National Grange  
National Grape & Wine Initiative  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Telecommunications Cooperative Association  
National Watermelon Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Women in Agriculture Association  
National Woodland Owners Association  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
Native Pollinators in Agriculture Project  
Nature Abounds  
The Nature Conservancy  
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Neighboring Food Co-op Association  
New Hampshire Institute of Agriculture and Forestry  
New Mexico Acequia Association  
New York Wine & Grape Foundation

NOFA Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)  
North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association  
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Farm Credit Council  
North Dakota Pork Council  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship  
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)  
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association  
Northern Pulse Growers Association  
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Orange County Land Trust  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Winegrowers Association  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Organic Valley  
Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas  
OwnEnergy  
Peconic Land Trust  
Pet Food Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Pollinator Partnership  
Produce Marketing Association  
Quails Forever  
Renewable Fuels Association  
Repreve Renewables, LLC  
Rhode Island Rural Development Council  
Rooted in Community  
RRGB Shipman Farm  
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Share Croppers Fund  
Rural Coalition  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Rural Development Leadership Network  
RuralVotes  
School Food FOCUS National Office  
Seacoast Eat Local  
Slow Food USA  
Society for Range Management  
Society of American Florists  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
South Dakota Wind Energy Association

South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Southern Forest Products Association  
Spartanburg Water  
Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance  
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association  
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders  
Sun-Maid Growers of California  
Swan Conservation Trust  
Texas International Produce Association  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Three Valley Conservation Trust  
The Trust for Public Land  
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
U.S. Apple Association  
US Canola Association  
US Composting Council  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
US Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Cattlemen's Association  
Vermont Land Trust  
Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers  
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Weeks Bay Foundation  
Western Growers  
Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association  
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine  
Wine Institute  
Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

cc: U.S. Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives