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.\(^1\)

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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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