

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