

May 7, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations urge you to bring the *Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012*, which passed on a strong bipartisan vote of 16-5 by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry on April 26, to the floor for consideration by the full Senate as quickly as possible.

The stakeholders we represent need to know details of the programs which will be in effect in 2013 as soon as possible. Timely action will also enhance prospects for completing new legislation this year rather than needing to extend current program authorities.

The Senate Committee bill already contributes agriculture's fair share toward deficit reduction by reducing spending by \$23 billion. As Chairwoman Stabenow, D-Mich., said during the committee's markup, "Farm bills are never easy, and a farm bill like this is especially hard when we're making serious and needed reforms while also cutting the deficit by \$23 billion." Also, as Ranking Member Roberts, R-Kan., stated, "We've performed our duty to taxpayers by cutting deficit spending while at the same time strengthening and preserving the programs so important to agriculture and rural America."

This is one piece of legislation upon which all Americans depend, urban as well as rural. With limited time remaining before expiration of current program authorities, time is of the essence. While each of our respective organizations will continue to work to accomplish our key priorities, the farm bill must move forward. We urge your leadership in allowing the Senate to consider this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

25x'25 Alliance  
Advanced Biofuels USA  
Agriculture Energy Coalition  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Biogas Council  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust  
American Forest Foundation

American Forests  
American Loggers Council  
American Malting Barley Association  
American Nursery and Landscape Association  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Public Works Association  
American Pulse Association  
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  
American Wind Energy Association  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Climate and Agriculture Network  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Cherry Marketing Institute, Inc.  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
CropLife America  
Crop Science Society of America  
Ducks Unlimited  
Ecological Farming Association  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Fair Food Network  
Farmer Mac  
Farmworkers Association of Florida  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Food System Economic Partnership  
Forest Landowners Association  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Watermelon Association  
Growth Energy  
Idaho Grower-Shippers Association

Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
International Biochar Initiative  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Land Trust Alliance  
League of Rural Voters  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils  
National Association of State Conservation Agencies  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Audubon Society  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Biodiesel Board  
National Cooperative Business Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Farmers Organization  
National Farmers Union  
National Grange  
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Organic Coalition  
National Potato Council  
National Rural Development Partnership  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Watermelon Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Woodland Owners Association  
National Young Farmers' Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center  
Oregon Association of Nurseries

Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Organic Trade Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Plum Creek  
Pollinator Partnership  
Produce Marketing Association  
Quail Forever  
Renewable Fuels Association  
Rural Coalition  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Slow Food USA  
Society for Range Management  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
The Trust for Public Land  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
United Fresh Produce Association  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
Western Growers  
Wild Blueberry Commission  
The Wildlife Society  
Wine Institute  
World Food Program USA