

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

