

February 7, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
United State House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

Renewal of the Farm Bill this year creates a singular opportunity to reform our farm and food policies to better meet America's economic, energy, environment, hunger and health challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities. As you develop the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008 and beyond, we urge you to provide sufficient resources to revise our farm and food policies to address these national goals.

With adequate funding we can make substantial progress in fostering new farming opportunities, expanding new markets, leveling the playing field for sustainable and organic farmers, increasing food access and improving health, reducing hunger, promoting rural entrepreneurship and community development, rewarding farmers to help meet the nation's most pressing environmental and animal welfare challenges, investing in sustainable farm-based energy conservation and production systems, and ensuring fair access to programs and services for socially disadvantaged farmers and farmworkers.

Unfortunately, since passage of the last Farm Bill, over \$6 billion in promised mandatory funding has been cut from the conservation, rural development, energy, and research titles. These funds should be fully restored, and given the very substantial budgetary savings that will result from changes in the farm economy and increased demand for

biofuels, we request that you adopt mandatory farm bill spending levels and discretionary spending levels that reinvest the savings to meet the priority challenges and opportunities named above.

We urge you to seize this opportunity to provide the resources needed to enhance farm and rural entrepreneurship, improve food security, expand opportunity for sustainable and organic farming, address the needs of socially disadvantaged farmers, create a new generation of agricultural conservation, and promote sustainable energy production and conservation.

Sincerely,

Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA)

American Bird Conservancy

American Farmland Trust

American Planning Association

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Landscape Architects

Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet)

Big River Economic & Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA)

Boston Public Market Association

Boulder Valley Community Gleaning Project

Bread for the World

California Coalition for Food and Farming

Caney Fork Headwaters Association

C.A.S.A. del Llano, Inc. (Communities Assuring a Sustainable Agriculture)

Cascade Harvest Coalition

Center for Rural Affairs

Chesapeake Bay Commission

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Coevolution Institute

Community Food and Agriculture Coalition of Missoula County, MT

Community Food Security Coalition

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

Conservation Districts of Iowa

Crop Science Society of America

Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Delta Land and Community  
Ecotrust Food and Farms  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Environmental Defense  
Equal Exchange  
Farm Aid  
Farm Fresh Rhode Island  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund  
Food Works at Two Rivers Center  
Future Harvest-A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture  
Gulf Restoration Network  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Heartland Center/Office of Peace and Justice for the Diocese of Gary, Indiana  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
The Humane Society of the United States  
Humane Society International  
Hunger Action Los Angeles  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Intertribal Agriculture Council  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Iowa Farmers Union  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Just Food  
Kansas Rural Center  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
Land Stewardship Project  
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute  
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance  
Michigan Food & Farming Systems

Michigan Land Use Institute  
Midwest Organic Farmers Cooperative  
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)  
Midwest Permaculture  
Minnesota Project  
National Audubon Society  
National Environmental Trust  
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc.  
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association  
National Organic Coalition  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility, United Church of Christ  
New England Small Farm Institute  
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP)  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation  
New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association  
New York Certified Organic (NYCO)  
North Carolina Association of Black Farmers  
Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAAS)  
Northeast-Midwest Institute  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont  
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing, Inc. (OFARM)  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
PPEP Microbusiness and Housing Development Corporation (PMHDC)

Practical Farmers of Iowa  
Prairie Rivers Network  
The Public Health Law Program  
Rochester Farm Connection  
Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA  
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural  
The Second Chance Foundation  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Associates, St. Louis Province  
Small Potatoes Gleaning Project  
Soil Science Society of America  
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League  
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)  
Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Sustainable Food Center  
Taste of the North Fork  
Utahns Against Hunger  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Valley of Heart's Delight, a project of Conexions  
Veritable Vegetable  
Washington State Food and Nutrition Council  
Water Environment Federation  
Western Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
The Wilderness Society  
Woman Food and Agriculture Network  
World Hunger Year

**cc: Members, House Committee on the Budget  
Members, House Committee on Agriculture**