

February 7, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

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 Mexico Farmers Marketing Association
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
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, Senate Committee on the Budget
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture**