



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION

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Conservation Security Program

National Sign-on Letter to Senate Appropriations

ATTN: Agriculture Appropriations

July 14, 2003

Dear Senate Appropriations Committee Member:

As you consider the FY 04 agriculture appropriations bill this week, we urge you to oppose any attempts to alter funding for the 2002 farm bill's landmark conservation, renewable energy, research, and rural development programs. We are united in strong opposition to the prohibitions on spending contained in the House committee-reported appropriations bill with respect to the Conservation Security Program, Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Grants, Value-Added Producer Grants, and Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food System grants, as well as to the House-proposed cutbacks in mandatory funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. The 2002 farm bill would not have passed without enhanced investments in these critical areas, and to begin the process of re-opening the farm bill and undoing the carefully crafted compromises it contained would violate the cooperative spirit with which the farm bill was constructed.

Restoring the 2002 farm bill funding cut earlier this year in the FY 03 omnibus bill is also an urgent matter. We urge you to choose an appropriate vehicle to restore full funding to the Conservation Security Program and to restore the cuts to the Farmland Protection Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program resulting from the FY 03 omnibus bill's requirement that these programs pay for the technical assistance needs of other conservation programs. Combined, these two unfortunate and unjustifiable provisions of the omnibus bill, if left uncorrected, will cut more than \$4 billion over ten years from the conservation spending agreed to in the farm bill, harming both farm income and natural resource and environmental protection.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

*American Corn Growers Association
American Farmland Trust
American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
American Rivers
Aquatic Resources Conservation Group
Bluewater Network
Center for Food Safety
Center for Rural Affairs
Clean Fuels Development Coalition
Conservation Law Foundation
Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
Cooperative Development Services
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense
Environmental Law & Policy Center
GRACE (Global Resource Action Center for the Environment)
Henry A. Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy at Winrock International
Humane Society of the United States*

Intertribal Agriculture Council
Izaak Walton League of America
Mississippi River Basin Alliance
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Audubon Society
National Biodiesel Board
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Cooperative Business Association
National Family Farm Coalition
National Organic Coalition
National Tribal Development Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Uses Council
Organic Consumers Association
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Trade Association
Renewable Fuels Association
REP America (Republicans for Environmental Protection)
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural
Sierra Club
Soybean Producers of America
Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Women, Food and Agriculture Network
Worldwatch Institute

Action for a Clean Environment, GA
Agriculture and Land Based Training Association, CA
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network
Alachua County Farmers' Market, Inc., Gainesville, FL
Alliance for Affordable Energy, LA
Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), MT
Amaizing Energy Cooperative, IA
Appalachian Crafts, KY
Audubon Society of New York
Baton Rouge Economic and Agriculture Development Alliance, LA
Border Agricultural Workers Project, TX
California Certified Organic Farmers, Inc.
California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Capital Area Food Bank, DC
Cascade Harvest Coalition, WA
Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY
Catholic Charities, Rural Life Office, Diocese Sioux City, IA
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Center on Race Poverty & the Environment, CA
Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, CA
Cherokee Small Farm Project
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Church Women United, New York State
Citizen Action Coalition of Indiana
Coalition for Health Concern, KY
Colorado Genetic Engineering Action Network.
Community Alliances of Interdependent AgriCulture (CAIA)
Community Alliance with Family Farmers, CA
Community Farm Alliance, KY
Community Food Connections, Phoenix, AZ
Corporate Agribusiness Research Project, WA
Delta Land and Community, AR
Democratic Agriculture Committee of Michigan
Endangered Habitats League, CA
ESCO Energy Services Company, MA

Fair Food Matters, MI
Family Farms for the Future, MO
The Farm Connection, NM
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc.
Foodshed Alliance, NJ
FORGE, Inc, AR
FreshFarm Markets, DC
Future Harvest/Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture
Grass-roots, NY
GrassWorks, Inc., WI
Gray Panthers of Texas
Heartland Center / Rural Life Ministry for the Diocese of Gary, IN
Hoosier Environmental Council
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Innovative Farmers of Ohio
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Farmers Union
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Just Harvest, Pittsburgh, PA
Kansas City Food Circle
Kansas Rural Center
Karp Resources, NY
Kentucky Audubon Council
Kentucky Resources Council
Kettle Range Conservation Group, WA
The Land Institute, KS
Land Stewardship Project, MN
Lane County Food Coalition, OR
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, IA
Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program, PA
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Mankato Area Environmentalists, MN
Marion County Self-Help Organization, Inc., MS
Maysie's Farm Conservation Center, PA
Merritt Apples Inc., WA
Michigan Farmers Union-Kent County Chapter
Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Food Association
The Minnesota Project
Mississippi Organic Growers Association
Missouri Farmers Union
Nebraska Wildlife Federation
New England Small Farm Institute
New Jersey Environmental Lobby
New Pioneer Co-op, IA
New York Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association
New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission
North Carolina Contract Poultry Growers Association
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society
Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
Northwest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development)
Ogallala Commons, TX
Ohio Citizen Action
Ohio Family Farm Coalition

Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon's Wild Harvest
PCC Farmland Fund, WA
Peconic Land Trust, NY
Pennsylvania Certified Organic
People-Centered Development Forum, WA
Politics of Food Program, NY
Prairie Rivers Network, IL
Randolph Area Family Farms, VT
Regional Farm & Food Project, Troy, NY
Renewable Energy Action Project (REAP)
Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, NM
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural Advancement Fund, SC
San Juan Citizens Alliance, CO
Santa Fe Family Farmers Cooperative, NM
Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative, OR
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH
SmallHolders Alliance, MA
Solar Farm Education, CT
Soul of Agriculture Project, CA
South Carolina Organic Association
Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc., LA
Southern Research Development Corporation, LA
St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, King, NC
Sustain, IL
Taos County Economic Development Corporation, NM
Tree Roots Buying Club, MI
Tuscaloosa Community Supported Agriculture, AL
UW-Madison F. H. King Students of Sustainable Agriculture
Village Image Environmental News, MO
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Waste Action Project, Seattle, WA
Watershed Alliance of South Kent, CT
Whole Foods Cooperative, PA
Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources, NY
Women in Agriculture, Center for Appalachian Studies, NC