

**Deadline for National, Regional, and State Organizations to Sign: COB Friday, March 10**  
**To Sign, Please Contact Christy Seyfert, American Soybean Association, at [cseyfert@soy.org](mailto:cseyfert@soy.org)**

March XX, 2023

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jodey Arrington  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brendan Boyle  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Whitehouse and Arrington and Ranking Members Grassley and Boyle:

As you develop the fiscal year 2024 budget in this farm bill reauthorization year, we write to express our strong support for providing the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and House Committee on Agriculture with sufficient budgetary resources to write a new bipartisan, multi-year, comprehensive, and meaningful piece of legislation.

Just as there are many pressures on the federal budget, there are many pressures on U.S. farmers and others throughout the agricultural supply chain who provide food, feed, fuel, and fiber to consumers across the United States and abroad.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), international sales of U.S. farm and food products reached \$196 billion in 2022. The leading market for these products is marked with geopolitical volatility: China. During the trade war with China that began in 2018, U.S. agriculture endured significant market impacts, which unfortunately revealed gaps in the farm safety net. If a trade war with our largest trading partner hardly triggered the farm safety net provided in the current farm bill – a Title I safety net that has been shrinking over the past 20 years – it is difficult to envision a scenario that would provide meaningful assistance without significant improvements. Continuing rising tensions with this important trading partner underscore the need in the next farm bill for a more meaningful, predictable farm safety net and the need to invest more into trade promotion programs to help diversify agricultural markets.

Market volatility with China is only one example of the many disruptions impacting U.S. agriculture during the life of the current farm bill. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, COVID-19 and other supply chain disruptions, non-tariff trade barriers erected by multiple countries, and devastating natural disasters have tested the effectiveness of current farm policy. Increased production input costs have as well, with USDA projecting that most expense categories will remain above their 2021 levels in 2023 both in nominal and inflation-adjusted dollars. These projected high input costs, coupled with lower projections for many crop cash receipts, are cause for concern for farm country: USDA's February 2023 Farm Income Forecast publication projects a 20.7 percent decline in net cash farm income in 2023 relative to 2022.

Projections such as this, when realized, often result in financial stress and calls for ad hoc or supplemental disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers – that is, assistance outside of the farm bill. In fact, between 2018-2021, ad hoc assistance made up approximately 70% of direct farm payments due to challenges described above. Ad hoc assistance is necessary in times of need but is not a timely, reliable, or predictable safety net for farmers and ranchers. The upcoming farm bill reauthorization provides an opportunity to address very real needs in agriculture and rely less on off-budget ad hoc assistance.

In addition to needs highlighted above, farm bill budget resources are needed for protecting and enhancing crop insurance to assist with volatile weather and crop loss, improving access to voluntary conservation incentives, addressing rural development needs, investing in research for innovation and competitiveness, providing opportunities to help the nation become more energy independent and food secure, and supporting solutions to address logistics challenges.

Sufficient budgetary resources will be needed to craft a new bipartisan, multi-year, comprehensive, and meaningful piece of legislation. As you work to build the federal budget for fiscal year 2024, we seek your support for providing sufficient resources to the committees to craft the next farm bill.

Sincerely,

*(National, regional, state organizations as of 3/8/23 11:15 am)*

#### National Associations

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Agri-Women  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Cherry Marketing Institute  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Ducks Unlimited  
Farm Credit Council  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
International Fresh Produce Association

National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
North American Meat Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Quail Forever  
Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance  
The Fertilizer Institute  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
U.S. Rice Producers  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council

State and Regional Associations

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
Colorado Dry Bean Committee  
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Corn Growers of North Carolina  
Delta Council  
Delta Waterfowl  
Florida Agri-Women  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association  
Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association  
Idaho Pest Management Association  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Soybean Association

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kentucky Corn Growers Association  
Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Maine Potato Board  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association  
Midwest Council on Agriculture  
Midwest Forage Association  
Minnesota Canola Council  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York Green Industry Council  
North Carolina Egg Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Carolina State Grange  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
Northern Canola Growers Association  
Northland Potato Growers Association  
NYS Agribusiness Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter  
Palmetto AgriBusiness Council  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
PNW Canola Association  
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association  
South Carolina Corn & Soybean Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, Inc.  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Agri-Women  
Texas Corn Producers Association  
Texas Soybean Association  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association  
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association

CC:     Members of the Senate Committee on Budget  
          Members of the House Committee on Budget  
          Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
          Members of the House Committee on Agriculture