

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

We write to you as members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) Climate and Agriculture Task Force to urge you to protect the nearly \$20 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for climate-smart agriculture programs that help safeguard our farmers, ranchers, and foresters at the front lines of the climate crisis.

Estimates show that in 2020, agriculture accounted for approximately [11 percent](#) of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Because agriculture also holds the potential to store significant quantities of carbon, it represents a unique opportunity in our efforts to tackle climate change. Farmers and forest landowners have worked to develop and implement methods to bring down emissions and slow the effects of climate change on their lands. With Farm Bill reauthorizations only taking place every five years, it is critical that the upcoming Farm Bill include forward-looking policies that support climate-related research, foster climate-smart innovation, and empower producers to utilize practices that mitigate climate change.


The \$19.5 billion in IRA investments for Farm Bill Title II conservation programs and technical assistance within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is critical to fighting climate change, and the next Farm Bill represents a significant opportunity to strengthen climate-resilience. USDA's voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs help producers adopt agriculture practices to adapt to and mitigate climate change. These practices have a variety of benefits ranging from building soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving water use efficiency. This simultaneously increases crop yields, which in turn helps farmers' bottom lines, making these programs a true win-win. Our producers demand these resources, demonstrated by heavily oversubscribed conservation programs such as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The IRA investments are a historic opportunity to meet this robust demand, which can help energize our rural economies and ensure that our nation's producers have a role to play in the fight against the climate crisis.

This Congress, the Task Force's mission is to ensure that the \$19.5 billion in climate-focused conservation funds remain dedicated to our producers through the Farm Bill. Further, the ever-increasing demand for these USDA programs demonstrates the need to make these funds part of the baseline mandatory funding within the Farm Bill with expanded support wherever possible for other climate-smart agriculture and conservation opportunities that will benefit generations to come. The Task Force released a report on policy recommendations to ensure the Farm Bill is as climate-friendly as possible. Additional opportunities to support climate-smart agriculture in the Farm Bill can be found in [this report](#).


We seek to amplify the voices of producers who are calling for increased federal support of sustainable farming practices and mitigation efforts related to extreme weather and climate change. This will not only protect our nation's producers but also secure a resilient and diverse U.S. food supply chain. As you begin the process of writing the next Farm Bill, it is critical that the funding provided in the IRA for climate-focused conservation is

protected. We are committed to working with you to ensure this Farm Bill includes the resources needed to give our farmers the essential tools to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Sincerely,




Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress




Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



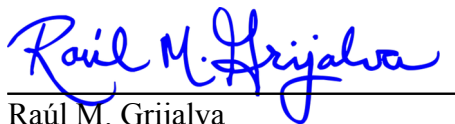
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



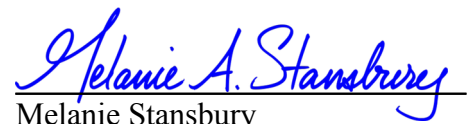
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



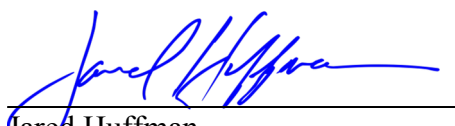
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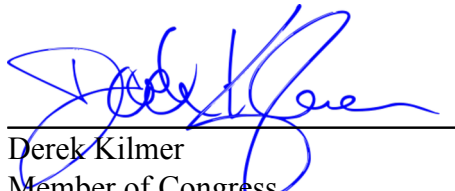
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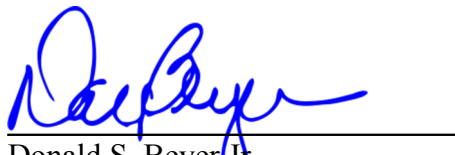
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