

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Mike Enzi, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Budget  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Price, Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Budget  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Budget  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

The undersigned 392 organizations, representing America's agriculture, nutrition, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy, trade, labor, equipment manufactures and crop insurance sectors, strongly urge you to reject calls for additional cuts to programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Just over one year ago, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, sweeping changes to our nation's food and farm policy that included significant deficit reduction. The 2014 Farm Bill required over three years of debate in both chambers of Congress and ultimately ended with the consolidation of over 100 programs and cuts to mandatory spending across many titles, including the elimination of the direct payment program. These cuts came in addition to those already in effect due to sequestration.

This bipartisan legislation was estimated to contribute \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years when including sequestration. These difficult cuts were made across the farm safety net, conservation programs, and nutrition programs. The policy changes and reforms associated with these cuts are only now being fully implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture. As such, no additional cuts to these programs should be considered, at least until these policies have time to take place and be thoroughly evaluated.

We, therefore, oppose re-opening any title of the Farm Bill during the consideration of the 2016 Budget Resolution and strongly urge you to refrain from including reconciliation instructions for either the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry or for the House Committee on Agriculture. These Committees have already done the hard work of delivering bipartisan cuts, and the farm and food community has experienced substantial cuts as a contribution to the goal of deficit reduction.

Sincerely,

1st Farm Credit Services  
AAOA  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AFSCME 1668  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
AgriBank  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
AgStar Financial Services, ACA  
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank  
Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Association of Retired Persons  
American Bankers Association  
American Commodity Distribution Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Heart Association  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Rivers  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
AmericanHort  
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition  
Ashton Day Care LLC  
Asian Services In Action  
Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of State Floodplain Managers  
Audubon  
Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Bay Area Food Bank  
Bayshore Lunch Program

Berkley Conservation Institute  
Blessings in a Backpack  
Blue Diamond Growers  
Board of Church & Society Wisconsin Annual Conference of The  
UMC  
Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc.  
Bread for the World  
Brutus Sennett Food Pantry  
CA Community Action Commission  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA)  
Camp Ronald McDonald at Eagle Lake  
CAPIC HEAD START  
Caring Community Friends, Inc.  
Center for Civil Justice  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Central Moravian Food Bank  
Chatham Avalon Church Food Pantry  
CHATHAM AVALON FOOD PANTRY  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Child and Family Policy Center  
Children's Council of San Francisco  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac (CLM) Community Action Agency  
City Harvest  
CLASP  
Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)  
Coalition on Human Needs  
COASAP  
CoBank  
CODEPINK  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers  
Community Blessings Food Pantry  
Community Food Bank Mineral County  
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma  
Community Servings of Boston  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Cooperative Network  
County of Humboldt WIC Program  
CPAC

Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Science Society of America  
Daughters of Charity  
Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans  
DC Hunger Solutions  
DeBows Food Pantry  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Delta ACA  
Delta Waterfowl  
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO  
Department of Indian Work  
Dickinson Iron Community Services Agency  
Ducks Unlimited  
East Oakland Boxing Association  
El Paso Human Services, Inc.  
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger  
Empire Justice Center  
Englewood-Rust United Methodist  
Enlarged City District of Middletown  
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
EZRA Multi-Service Center  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Credit Illinois, ACA  
Farm Credit Midsouth  
Farm Credit Services of America  
FarmerMac  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
FCS Financial  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Feed the Children  
Feeding America  
Feeding America San Diego  
Feeding America Southwest Virginia  
Feeding Pennsylvania  
Feeding Texas  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Florida Impact

Food Bank Association of New York State  
Food Bank Council of Michigan  
Food Bank of Central New York  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan  
Food Bank of Iowa  
Food Bank of Monmouth Ocean County  
Food Bank of South Central Michigan  
Food Bank of The Golden Crescent  
FOOD for Lane County  
Food for People, Inc.  
Food for Thought  
Food Gatherers  
Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
Foodshare, Inc.  
Forgotten Harvest  
Free Forever Prison Ministry Inc.  
Freehold Area Open door, Inc.  
Freestore Foodbank  
Friends Feeding Families  
Gifts of Love  
God's Love We Deliver  
Grace Community Foundation  
Grand Valley State University  
Great Lakes Flotation LLC  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
Greenstone FCS  
Groundcover News  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
Growth Energy  
Haddon Heights Soccer Club  
Harvesters--The Community Food Network (KS)  
Harvesters--The Community Food Network (MO)  
Head Start  
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island  
Henry Booth House  
Henry Ford Health System  
Hickman Charter School  
Holly Springs Food Cupboard

Holthouse Farms / DR Walcher Farms  
Hotel, Inc.  
Hour Children Food Pantry  
Human Rights Watch  
Huner Free Vermont  
Hunger Advocacy Network  
Hunger Free Colorado  
Hunger Free VT  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Hunger Solutions New York, Inc.  
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force  
Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger(IIRAH)  
Idaho Voices for Children  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
Indiana Latino Institute  
Interfaith Food Pantry  
International AIDS Empowerment  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers  
(IFPTE)  
Irrigation Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Jewish Community Food Pantry  
Jewish Family Service  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Joint Urban Ministry Project, Inc.  
Just Harvest  
Justice For Families and Children  
Kings Local Food Pantry  
KonÃ© Consulting  
Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA)  
Land Trust Alliance  
Lebanon Food Pantry  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Locally Delicious, Inc  
Long Island Cares, Inc.  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Lowcountry Food Bank  
Lunch Break  
Lutheran Services in America  
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)  
Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Mathematica Policy Research  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
McKinley Hall  
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County  
Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance  
Michigan Community Action  
Mid-Ohio Food Bank  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
Missoula Food Bank  
MomsRising  
Montana Food Bank Network  
Montana No Kid Hungry  
Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents  
National Association of RC&D Councils  
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association  
National Conservation District Employees Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Council on Aging  
National Farm to School Network  
National Farmers Union  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Organic Association  
National Organic Coalition  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Watermelon Association

National WIC Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
Nature Conservancy  
Navy Region Southwest Child and Youth Program  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Neighborhood Service Organization  
Neighbors, Inc.  
New Faith Church UCC  
New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition  
New York Hunger Council  
NH Food Bank  
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
Oakhurst United Methodist Women  
Ocean Park, WA Food Bank  
Ohio Agri Business Association  
Ohio Association of Foodbanks  
Open Hand Atlanta  
OpenTheGovernment.org  
Orange County Food Access Coalition  
Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens  
Organization of Dekalb Educators  
Otero Hunger Coalition  
Our Neighbors' Table  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Peterborough Food Pantry  
Pheasants Forever  
Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry  
Pollinator Partnership  
ProAg  
Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger  
Prosperity Gardens  
Quail Forever  
Quincy Community Action Center Head Start  
Rain and Hail Society  
Real Food for Kids - Montgomery  
Redwood Empire Food Bank  
Redwoods Rural Health Center  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma  
RESULTS Educational Fund  
RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty

Roarke Center (Catholic Charities Albany,NY)  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
School Nutrition Association  
Second Baptist Church Asbury Park  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign and Logan Counties  
Seedleaf  
Share Our Strength  
Shared Harvest Foodbank  
Siena House  
SIGH  
Sisters of Mercy (IA)  
Sisters of Mercy (NJ)  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Sitka Local Foods Network  
Small Ville Learning Farm  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Society for Range Management  
Society of American Florists  
Society of American Florists  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
Solid Ground  
South Carolina Appleseed  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency  
Soyfoods Association of North America  
Spokane Public Schools  
St Joseph Health -Humboldt  
St. Ailbe Mens Ministry Food Pantry  
St. Anthony's  
St. Louis Area Foodbank  
St. Margaret Mary Church, Peace and Justice  
St. Paul Cathedral Food Pantry  
St. Vincent de Paul Center  
State Education Resource Center  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida  
Sunkist  
Tacoma Education Association-Retired  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Vegetable Association  
The Arc of the United States

The Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake  
The Community FoodBank of New Jersey  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Food Trust  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America  
The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Salvation Army  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
TOUCH Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc  
Towne Food Pantry  
Trout Unlimited  
TrueNorth Community Services  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg  
United Farm Credit Services  
United Fresh  
United Way Worldwide  
UNM Prevention Research Center  
Upper Room Soup Kitchen  
US Canola Association  
US Cattlemen's Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Valley of the Sun United Way  
Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services  
Washtenaw Food Policy Council  
Water Environment Federation  
West Burlington School District  
West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Westfield State University, Hunger Outreach Team  
Westmoreland County Food Bank Inc.  
WhyHunger  
Wiers Farm Inc.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Wolf's Enterprises Human and Civil Rights Advocacy  
World Wildlife Fund  
YMCA Cape Cod  
Yolo County Food Bank  
Youth & Family Services  
YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish