

August 4, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

The undersigned groups write in strong support of the more than \$21 billion investment in climate-smart agriculture and conservation technical assistance included in the Inflation Reduction Act. This would be the largest investment into agriculture conservation in decades and would be transformative for farmers, ranchers, and foresters across the country.

USDA's voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs enable producers to adopt practices that build soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also improving surface and ground water quality, increasing water efficiency, creating habitat for fish and wildlife, and protecting agricultural lands for future generations. Farm Bill conservation programs are critically oversubscribed and meet only a fraction of the need for voluntary conservation on the landscape. Increasing funding for USDA's popular and effective Farm Bill conservation programs is one of the quickest and most practical ways to energize rural economies, improve climate resilience, and ensure that our nation's farmers, ranchers, and foresters are part of the solution to climate change.

Farmers, ranchers, and foresters are ready to adopt practices that sequester carbon and reduce emissions if they are provided the tools and resources to make that goal a reality. Increasing funding for the Farm Bill conservation programs and climate-smart agriculture and ramping up conservation technical assistance on the ground will enable landowners to mitigate the impacts of drought and flood, restore wildlife habitat, improve soil health and long-term food security, create new job opportunities for rural economies, and galvanize the agriculture sector to lead the charge in our fight against climate change.

Passing the Inflation Reduction Act represents the best opportunity in decades to meet farmer demand for conservation programs. The undersigned groups urge you to support the investments in the Inflation Reduction Act that support USDA agriculture conservation programs and conservation technical assistance.

Sincerely,

National Groups and Companies:

American Farmland Trust
American Forest Foundation
American Society of Agronomy
American Sustainable Business Network
Amy's Kitchen
Bee Girl
Bonterra Organic Estates

Carbon180
Citizen's Climate Lobby
Climate Positive Consulting
Crop Science Society of America
Danone North America, PBC
Defenders of Wildlife
Dr. Bronner's

Earthjustice
Environmental Working Group
Farm Aid
Farmer Focus
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Hempstead Project Heart
Indigo Ag
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Certified Crop Advisors
Izaak Walton League of America
Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future
Land Trust Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
National Association of Conservation
Districts
National Audubon Society
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Deer Association
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers
National Mississippi River Museum &
Aquarium
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
National Young Farmers Coalition

Natural Resources Defense Council
New Belgium Brewing
North American Grouse Partnership
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Valley / CROPP Cooperative
Pesticide Action Network
Pheasants Forever
Plant Based Foods Association
Pollinator Partnership
Quail Forever
River Network
Rural Coalition
Soil Science Society of America
Stonyfield Organic
The Breakthrough Institute
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trust for Public Land
Union of Concerned Scientists
Wallace Center at Winrock International
Wild Farm Alliance
World Wildlife Fund

Regional, State, and Local Groups:

AFGE Local 3354
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Association of IL Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
Audubon of the Western Everglades
California Climate & Agriculture Network
California Farmers Union
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Center for Rural Affairs
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Climate Land Leaders – Sharing Our Roots
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Darden’s Farm/Health Services
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Florida Wildlife Federation
Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition
Foodshed Capital
Friends of the Mississippi River
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Great Lakes Business Network
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Indiana Sportsmen’s Roundtable
Indiana Wildlife Federation
Izaak Walton League of America – Bush Lake
Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Cypress
Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Damascus
Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Dwight
Lydell Chapter

Izaak Walton League of America – Florida
Division
Izaak Walton League of America – Florida
Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Fort
Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Great
Lakes Committee
Izaak Walton League of America – Illinois
Division
Izaak Walton League of America – Mid-
Shore Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Oregon
Division
Izaak Walton League of America – The Lois
Green-Sligo Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America – Wildlife
Achievement Chapter
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Lancaster Farmland Trust
Land for Good
Maine Farmland Trust
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners
Association
Michigan Food & Farming Systems
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Milwaukee Riverkeeper

Mississippi River Network
Montana Wildlife Federation
New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group
North Dakota Wildlife Federation
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association of
Vermont
Northern Plains Resource Council (Soil Task
Force)
Oak Grove Presbyterian Green Committee
Ohio Conservation Federation
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Environmental Council
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
Oregon Agricultural Trust
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Tilth
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
PennFuture
Prairie Rivers Network
Savanna Institute
Trostle Brothers, LLC
Trout Unlimited – Illinois Council
Vermont Land Trust
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
World Farmers Inc.

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Honorable David Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture