

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 2, 2021

Dear Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance:

Thank you for sharing your letter to Congressional leadership regarding the latest budget reconciliation package with the leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. As the Republican Members of the Agriculture Committees in our respective chambers, we welcome the opportunity to hear from FACA members on their priorities. America's farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and rural communities have always, and must continue to play a central role in the development of legislation impacting their livelihoods.

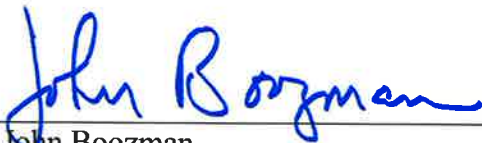
Our Committees have a long history of bipartisanship. We share your belief "that widespread support strengthens any legislation." Farm bills, child nutrition reauthorizations, and other major legislation have started their paths to enactment with members of both parties working collaboratively. This work is informed by public hearings with significant input from stakeholders, many of whom have joined your alliance. Reconciliation should demand no less. In fact, due to reconciliation's procedural limitations, including those on debate, it is even more important that the process undertaken at the committee level be public. Unfortunately, with less than two weeks until the House Agriculture Committee is scheduled to mark up this legislation, not one public hearing on the package has been held. Republican Members, along with the many individuals and stakeholders, remain shut out of the process.

This current reconciliation process, like the previous package (P.L. 117-2), is entirely partisan and only involves new spending—at an extraordinary level. This level, \$135 billion, is comparable to the total spending on agricultural support and conservation programs in the last five-year farm bill. Like your members, we are deeply concerned about the impact that a hasty and partisan reconciliation bill of this size will have on the long-term viability of existing farm bill programs. We are equally concerned with the consequences that misguided tax policies will have on multi-generational agricultural family businesses.

In support of your call for bipartisanship and broad buy-in for farm bill programs, we ask that you join us in calling upon our Committees to convene public hearings to hear directly from our nation's farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and representatives from our rural communities. We also believe it is important for both committees to hold business meetings where members have an opportunity to discuss the legislation and offer amendments. The current closed-door Washington, D.C. based process is elitist and disrespectful to those who produce the food and fiber our country depends upon. We sincerely hope this is not the path Chairs Stabenow and Scott choose to follow.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to the opportunity for America's farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and rural communities to have their voices heard.

Respectfully,



John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry



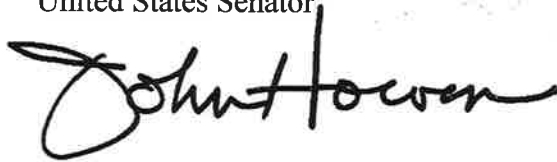
Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-15)
Republican Leader
House Committee on Agriculture



Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



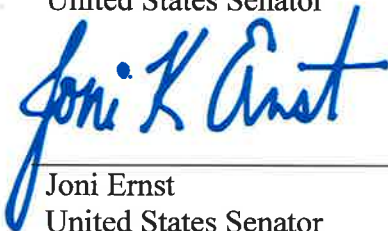
Austin Scott (GA-08)
Member of Congress



John Hoeven
United States Senator



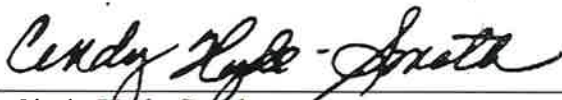
Rick Crawford (AR-01)
Member of Congress



Joni Ernst
United States Senator



Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04)
Member of Congress



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



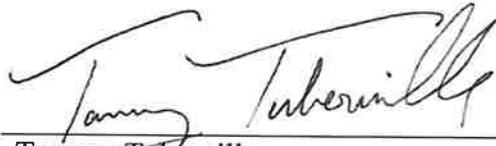
Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall
United States Senator



Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
Member of Congress



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Rodney Davis (IL-13)
Member of Congress



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



Rick W. Allen (GA-12)
Member of Congress



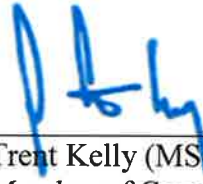
John Thune
United States Senator



David Rouzer (NC-07)
Member of Congress



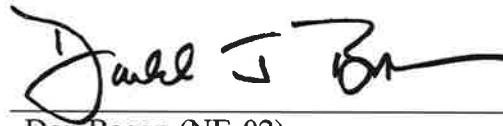
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



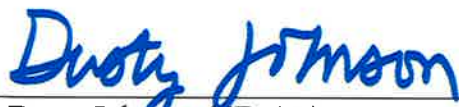
Trent Kelly (MS-01)
Member of Congress



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Don Bacon (NE-02)
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)
Member of Congress



James R. Baird, Ph.D. (IN-04)
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn (MN-01)
Member of Congress



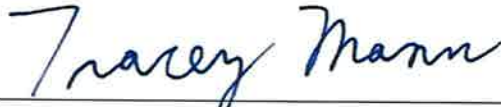
Chris Jacobs (NY-27)
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson (OH-12)
Member of Congress



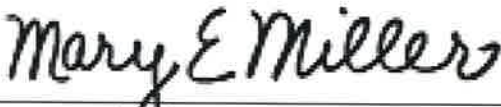
Michael Cloud (TX-27)
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann (KS-01)
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra (IA-04)
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller (IL-15)
Member of Congress



Barry Moore (AL-02)
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack (FL-03)
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach (MN-07)
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow, Ph.D. (LA-05)
Member of Congress