

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Agriculture
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Recommendations for a thriving Farm Bill for us all

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, and Ranking Member Scott:

We, HEAL Food Alliance, a coalition of 40 member organizations representing over 2 million farmers, workers, advocates, and organizers, and the 112 additional undersigned organizations, write to you as leaders of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees as you work to draft and finalize a 2023 Farm Bill that creates a thriving future for all in our food and farm system.

Everyone deserves to be able to grow, prepare, and eat food that is nourishing to them, other communities, and the planet. Unfortunately, previous farm bill legislation has often served as a tool for investment in harmful food practices that prioritize profit over people and the health of our natural environment.

The 2023 Farm Bill presents an opportunity for us to come together to build a more equitable and sustainable food system. To do so, we are asking you to craft farm bill legislation that:

1) Secures dignity and fairness for food chain workers.

The 21.5 million people who work in our food and farm systems are essential to its functioning and serve as its foundation. The next Farm Bill must include a labor title that supports all food workers and their families and must include protections and support for farm and food chain workers throughout the bill.

2) Provides opportunities for all producers.

For too long, U.S. food and farm systems have relied on the exploitation of BIPOC producers, and the USDA has a well-documented track record of discrimination, and failing to provide adequate support and assistance. The next Farm Bill must ensure that BIPOC producers have equitable access to all USDA programs and are able to thrive.

3) Invests in communities, not corporations.

The last 50 years of food and agriculture policy have enabled an increase in the consolidation of our food system. The next Farm Bill must ensure the resiliency of our food and farm systems by investing in community infrastructure for regional food systems.

4) Nourishes people.

Current federal food and agriculture programs have failed to meet the basic needs of producers,

consumers, and their communities. The next Farm Bill must expand the social safety net to ensure that everyone has access to and can afford nourishing food, a fundamental human right.

5) Ensures the survival of ecosystems and our planet.

The next Farm Bill must be a climate-focused bill centered on building resilience in our agricultural economy by investing in organic, regenerative, and agroecological systems, including those grounded in traditional and cultural knowledge and practices.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations, and we look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

HEAL Food Alliance

The HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance is a national multi-sector, multi-racial coalition led by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Our nearly 40 member organizations represent over two million rural and urban farmers, ranchers, fishers, public health advocates, farm and food chain workers, Indigenous groups, scientists, policy experts, community organizers, and activists. Together, we are building collective power to transform our food and farm systems for the health of our communities and the planet.

SIGNATURES

HEAL member organizations*:

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)*

Brandworkers*

Chicago Food Policy Action Council*

Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive (CoFED)*

Community Alliance for Agroecology (CAFA)*

Cultivate Charlottesville*

Earthjustice*

Farmworker Association of Florida*

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)*

Food Chain Workers Alliance*

Food Culture Collective*

Health Care Without Harm*

HOPE Collaborative*

I-Collective *

Idaho Organization of Resource Councils (IORC)*

Kitchen Table Advisors*

La Semilla Food Center*

Land Stewardship Project*

Manzanita Capital Collective*

Minnow*

National Black Food and Justice Alliance (NBFJA)*

National Farm to School Network*

Natural Resources Defense Council*

Nihikeya*

North American Marine Alliance (NAMA)*

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC)*
Operation Spring Plant, Inc.*
Pesticide Action Network North America*
Public Justice*
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA)*
Real Food Generation*
Real Food Media*
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United*
Rural Community Workers Alliance (RCWA)*
Soul Fire Farm Institute*
Union of Concerned Scientists*
Urban Tilth*
Warehouse Workers for Justice*

Additional signers:

ActionAid USA
African American Health Alliance
Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network
Agroecology Research-Action Collective
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Appetite For Change
Buffalo Food Equity Network/Food for the Spirit/Black Farmers United-NYS
Buffalo Freedom Gardens
Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment
Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food
Center for Food Safety
Climate Justice Alliance
Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety
Coming Clean
Community Agroecology Network (CAN)
Crop Swap LA
Cultivate: Local Food Connections
Datura Farm
Desierto Verde Farm
Down To Earth Innovations
EcoGather
Edible East Bay Magazine
EFOD Collaborative
Environmental Working Group
Equity Advocates
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Bill Law Enterprise
Farming Hope
Feed Black Futures
Five Horizons Health Services
Food 4 Thought Farms
Food for the Spirit

Food Shift
Foodwise
Fresh Approach
Fresh Future Farm, Inc.
Friends of the Earth
Frontline Farming
Fruit Belt Advisory Council
GC RESOLVE
Georgia Organics
Good Rain Farm
Hand, Heart, and Soul Project
Harvard Law School Food Law & Policy Clinic
HavenBMedia
Housing Works, Inc.
Human Rights Campaign Foundation
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Impacted Families Project
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iris House, Inc.
Just Food
La Raza Community Resource Center
Latinx Farmworkers of Southern Idaho
Marbleseed
Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
Movement Strategy Center
National Family Farm Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Working Positive Coalition
National Young Farmers Coalition
Near Futures Projects
Nectar Flower Farms, LLC
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
Northeast Organic Farming Association NH
Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ
Not Our Farm
Nourish Colorado
OMI Cultural Participation Project
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Oxfam America
PDC Press, Inc. / Farm2Fork
Planting Justice
Pollinate Farm
Polo's Pantry
Positive Women's Network-USA
ProJect Access to AFreeKa
Project Protect Food Systems Workers
Project Worthmore
QTViet Cafe Collective and Asian Refugees United
RegeNErate Nebraska
Rising Majority
Roots of Change

Rural Coalition
Rūted Solutions
San Diego Food System Alliance
Seeding Change
Seeds of Solidarity
Sero Project
Slow Food East Bay
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Soil Centric
Sprout Nola
Stanford University Environmental Justice Working Group
Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
Symbodied
The Well Project
The Women's Building
THRIVE SS
Toohnii Binaneestʔaʔ Ałtaasʔéí Alliance
Urban Farm and Garden Alliance (St. Paul, MN)
Urban Fruits & Veggies, LLC
Vermont Farmers Food Center
Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition
Vivent Health
Wellness in the Schools
West Valley Farms and Camp Sites
Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN)