



September 12, 2023

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: Prioritizing Recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill**

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

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.

As you begin negotiations for the 2023 Farm Bill, we want to reiterate HEAL Food Alliance's five main priorities that would not only help producers and food chain workers thrive, but build a more equitable and resilient food system:

### **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 protections and support for farm and food chain workers throughout the bill. [Read more detailed policy recommendations here.](#)

### **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. [Read more detailed policy recommendations here.](#)

**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. [Read more detailed policy recommendations here.](#)

**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. [Read more detailed policy recommendations here.](#)

**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. [Read more detailed policy recommendations here.](#)

We look forward to working with you to achieve a farm bill that prioritizes these goals as the farm bill process evolves.

Sincerely,



Nichelle Harriott  
Policy Director  
HEAL Food Alliance