October 7, 2021

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,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to pass a Build Back Better Act that includes robust funding for climate-smart agriculture. As you continue to consider this important legislation, the undersigned groups write in strong support of the proposed $28 billion investment into USDA agriculture conservation programs and conservation technical assistance and urge you to ensure that it remains in the final budget reconciliation package. This would be the largest investment into agriculture conservation in decades and would be transformative for farms, ranches, and forests across the country.

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. USDA’s voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs enable farmers, ranchers, and forest owners 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.

Unfortunately, Farm Bill conservation programs are critically oversubscribed and meet only a fraction of the need for voluntary conservation on the landscape. Demand for conservation on 13.8 million acres goes unmet because of inadequate funding every year. That’s why last month, over 215 groups announced their support for doubling of the Farm Bill conservation program funding. A $28 billion investment in Farm Bill conservation programs, conservation technical assistance, and climate-smart agriculture would go a long way towards that goal. Hundreds of farm, food and conservation advocates, companies, and private citizens have weighed in with input during the budget reconciliation process, and they confirmed that the climate-smart agriculture provisions of the Build Back Better Budget will make a historic impact on conservation efforts.

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. Farmers, ranchers, and foresters are ready adopt practices that sequester carbon and reduce emissions if they are provided the tools and resources to make that goal a reality.

Action this year on a reconciliation bill with robust funding for climate-smart agriculture represents the best opportunity in decades to meet farmer demand for conservation programs.

Thank you for all of your work on the Build Back Better Act and climate-smart agriculture funding. We look forward to working with you in the future to continue to build out these priorities that will energize the American economy and put Americans back to work.
Sincerely,

**National Groups and Companies:**
- Alter Eco
- American Bird Conservancy
- American Farmland Trust
- American Fisheries Society
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Carbon180
- Ceres
- Cliff Bar & Co
- Climate Positive Consulting
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Dr. Bronner’s
- Earthjustice
- Eleni Toubanos, LLC
- Environment America
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Working Group
- Farm Aid
- GreenStep Solutions Inc.
- Hazon
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Impossible Foods Inc.
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable 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 Farmers Union
- National Organic Coalition
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
- National Wildlife Federation
- National Young Farmers Coalition
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- North American Grouse Partnership
- Organic Farmers Association
- Organic Farming Research Foundation
- Oregon Tilth
- Pesticide Action Network
- Plant Based Foods Association
- Pollinator Partnership
- Queenan Productions
- River Network
- Save the Dunes
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Tentree
- The Bee Girl Organization (BGO)
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Tofurky Company
- The Trust for Public Land
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- U.S. PIRG
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Wild Farm Alliance
- Wildlife Management Institute
- World Wildlife Fund
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

**Regional, State, and Local Groups:**
- Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Arizona Wildlife Federation
- Audubon Western Everglades
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Bread Riot
- California Climate & Agriculture Network
- Cacapon Institute
- Capital Region Land Conservancy
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA)
- Carteret Food and Health Council - NC
- Center for Rural Affairs
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Chesapeake Legal Alliance
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- Community Farm Alliance
- Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Conservation Northwest
- Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
- Delaware Valley Ornithological Club
- Environmental Law & Policy Center
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