

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Mike Enzi, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Budget
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Price, Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

The undersigned 392 organizations, representing America's agriculture, nutrition, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy, trade, labor, equipment manufactures and crop insurance sectors, strongly urge you to reject calls for additional cuts to programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Just over one year ago, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, sweeping changes to our nation's food and farm policy that included significant deficit reduction. The 2014 Farm Bill required over three years of debate in both chambers of Congress and ultimately ended with the consolidation of over 100 programs and cuts to mandatory spending across many titles, including the elimination of the direct payment program. These cuts came in addition to those already in effect due to sequestration.

This bipartisan legislation was estimated to contribute \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years when including sequestration. These difficult cuts were made across the farm safety net, conservation programs, and nutrition programs. The policy changes and reforms associated with these cuts are only now being fully implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture. As such, no additional cuts to these programs should be considered, at least until these policies have time to take place and be thoroughly evaluated.

We, therefore, oppose re-opening any title of the Farm Bill during the consideration of the 2016 Budget Resolution and strongly urge you to refrain from including reconciliation instructions for either the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry or for the House Committee on Agriculture. These Committees have already done the hard work of delivering bipartisan cuts, and the farm and food community has experienced substantial cuts as a contribution to the goal of deficit reduction.

Sincerely,

1st Farm Credit Services
AAOA
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
AFSCME 1668
AgCountry Farm Credit Services
AgriBank
Agricultural Retailers Association
AgStar Financial Services, ACA
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Association of Retired Persons
American Bankers Association
American Commodity Distribution Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Honey Producers Association
American Rivers
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
AmericanHort
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Ashton Day Care LLC
Asian Services In Action
Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Audubon
Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Community Action Agency, Inc.
Bay Area Food Bank
Bayshore Lunch Program

Berkley Conservation Institute
Blessings in a Backpack
Blue Diamond Growers
Board of Church & Society Wisconsin Annual Conference of The UMC
Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc.
Bread for the World
Brutus Sennett Food Pantry
CA Community Action Commission
California Association of Food Banks
California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA)
Camp Ronald McDonald at Eagle Lake
CAPIC HEAD START
Caring Community Friends, Inc.
Center for Civil Justice
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Central Moravian Food Bank
Chatham Avalon Church Food Pantry
CHATHAM AVALON FOOD PANTRY
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Child and Family Policy Center
Children's Council of San Francisco
Children's Defense Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac (CLM) Community Action Agency
City Harvest
CLASP
Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Coalition on Human Needs
COASAP
CoBank
CODEPINK
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Community Blessings Food Pantry
Community Food Bank Mineral County
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma
Community Servings of Boston
Congressional Hunger Center
Cooperative Network
County of Humboldt WIC Program
CPAC

Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
Crop Science Society of America
Daughters of Charity
Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans
DC Hunger Solutions
DeBows Food Pantry
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta ACA
Delta Waterfowl
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
Department of Indian Work
Dickinson Iron Community Services Agency
Ducks Unlimited
East Oakland Boxing Association
El Paso Human Services, Inc.
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger
Empire Justice Center
Englewood-Rust United Methodist
Enlarged City District of Middletown
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
EZRA Multi-Service Center
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Farm Credit Council
Farm Credit Illinois, ACA
Farm Credit Midsouth
Farm Credit Services of America
FarmerMac
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
Farmworker Association of Florida
FCS Financial
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Feed the Children
Feeding America
Feeding America San Diego
Feeding America Southwest Virginia
Feeding Pennsylvania
Feeding Texas
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Impact

Food Bank Association of New York State
Food Bank Council of Michigan
Food Bank of Central New York
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
Food Bank of Iowa
Food Bank of Monmouth Ocean County
Food Bank of South Central Michigan
Food Bank of The Golden Crescent
FOOD for Lane County
Food for People, Inc.
Food for Thought
Food Gatherers
Food Pantry of Jeff Davis County
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Foodshare, Inc.
Forgotten Harvest
Free Forever Prison Ministry Inc.
Freehold Area Open door, Inc.
Freestore Foodbank
Friends Feeding Families
Gifts of Love
God's Love We Deliver
Grace Community Foundation
Grand Valley State University
Great Lakes Flotation LLC
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Greenstone FCS
Groundcover News
GROWMARK, Inc.
Growth Energy
Haddon Heights Soccer Club
Harvesters--The Community Food Network (KS)
Harvesters--The Community Food Network (MO)
Head Start
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
Henry Booth House
Henry Ford Health System
Hickman Charter School
Holly Springs Food Cupboard

Holthouse Farms / DR Walcher Farms
Hotel, Inc.
Hour Children Food Pantry
Human Rights Watch
Huner Free Vermont
Hunger Advocacy Network
Hunger Free Colorado
Hunger Free VT
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Hunger Solutions New York, Inc.
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger(IIRAH)
Idaho Voices for Children
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Independent Community Bankers of America
Indiana Latino Institute
Interfaith Food Pantry
International AIDS Empowerment
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
(IFPTE)
Irrigation Association
Izaak Walton League of America
Jewish Community Food Pantry
Jewish Family Service
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Joint Urban Ministry Project, Inc.
Just Harvest
Justice For Families and Children
Kings Local Food Pantry
KonÃ© Consulting
Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA)
Land Trust Alliance
Lebanon Food Pantry
League of United Latin American Citizens
Locally Delicious, Inc
Long Island Cares, Inc.
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Lowcountry Food Bank
Lunch Break
Lutheran Services in America
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)
Maryland Food Bank

Maryland Hunger Solutions
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Mathematica Policy Research
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
McKinley Hall
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County
Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance
Michigan Community Action
Mid-Ohio Food Bank
Midwest Dairy Coalition
Missoula Food Bank
MomsRising
Montana Food Bank Network
Montana No Kid Hungry
Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
National Association of RC&D Councils
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association
National Conservation District Employees Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Council on Aging
National Farm to School Network
National Farmers Union
National Immigration Law Center
National Milk Producers Federation
National Organic Association
National Organic Coalition
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Watermelon Association

National WIC Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Young Farmers Coalition
Nature Conservancy
Navy Region Southwest Child and Youth Program
Nebraska Appleseed
Neighborhood Service Organization
Neighbors, Inc.
New Faith Church UCC
New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition
New York Hunger Council
NH Food Bank
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry
Oakhurst United Methodist Women
Ocean Park, WA Food Bank
Ohio Agri Business Association
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Open Hand Atlanta
OpenTheGovernment.org
Orange County Food Access Coalition
Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens
Organization of Dekalb Educators
Otero Hunger Coalition
Our Neighbors' Table
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Peterborough Food Pantry
Pheasants Forever
Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
Pollinator Partnership
ProAg
Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger
Prosperity Gardens
Quail Forever
Quincy Community Action Center Head Start
Rain and Hail Society
Real Food for Kids - Montgomery
Redwood Empire Food Bank
Redwoods Rural Health Center
Reformed Church of Highland Park
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
RESULTS Educational Fund
RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty

Roarke Center (Catholic Charities Albany,NY)
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
School Nutrition Association
Second Baptist Church Asbury Park
Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign and Logan Counties
Seedleaf
Share Our Strength
Shared Harvest Foodbank
Siena House
SIGH
Sisters of Mercy (IA)
Sisters of Mercy (NJ)
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sitka Local Foods Network
Small Ville Learning Farm
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society for Range Management
Society of American Florists
Society of American Florists
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Science Society of America
Solid Ground
South Carolina Appleseed
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency
Soyfoods Association of North America
Spokane Public Schools
St Joseph Health -Humboldt
St. Ailbe Mens Ministry Food Pantry
St. Anthony's
St. Louis Area Foodbank
St. Margaret Mary Church, Peace and Justice
St. Paul Cathedral Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul Center
State Education Resource Center
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida
Sunkist
Tacoma Education Association-Retired
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Vegetable Association
The Arc of the United States

The Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake
The Community FoodBank of New Jersey
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Food Trust
The Greater Boston Food Bank
The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Salvation Army
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
TOUCH Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc
Towne Food Pantry
Trout Unlimited
TrueNorth Community Services
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg
United Farm Credit Services
United Fresh
United Way Worldwide
UNM Prevention Research Center
Upper Room Soup Kitchen
US Canola Association
US Cattlemen's Association
US Dry Bean Council
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
Valley of the Sun United Way
Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services
Washtenaw Food Policy Council
Water Environment Federation
West Burlington School District
West Side Campaign Against Hunger
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association
Westfield State University, Hunger Outreach Team
Westmoreland County Food Bank Inc.
WhyHunger
Wiers Farm Inc.

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Wolf 's Enterprises Human and Civil Rights Advocacy
World Wildlife Fund
YMCA Cape Cod
Yolo County Food Bank
Youth & Family Services
YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish