

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Demand a Farm Bill that Reflects Your Values

Dear Mr. President,

Every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill, a wide-ranging piece of legislation that affects every part of our food system. The next Farm Bill should reflect your values and build on your administration's actions to date to reduce economic inequality, bridge the nation's racial divides, end hunger, confront the climate crisis, improve nutrition and food safety, and protect and support farmers, workers, and communities. Such a Farm Bill should:

**Center Racial Justice** – To reflect your values, the next Farm Bill must advance your administration's pledge to “confront the hard reality of past discrimination” and address the continuing and devastating reality of systemic racism in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Your Farm Bill must be a racial justice bill that will, in the words of your 2021 Executive Order, “allocate resources to address the historic failure to invest sufficiently, justly, and equally in underserved communities.” Farmers and communities of color, Tribal Nations, and food and farm workers add immeasurable knowledge and value to our food and farm system and make essential economic and environmental contributions. Ultimately, equity and justice must be at the center of every facet of the next Farm Bill if we hope to repair historical and ongoing discrimination against these communities, recognize more fully their contribution to the food and farming system, and eliminate inequities throughout the food and farm economy.

**End Hunger** - As you have recognized, “too many families do not know where they're going to get their next meal.” To reflect your values, the next Farm Bill must protect and strengthen food assistance programs to ensure sufficient resources, merit staffing, and access to nutritious food for all people who struggle against hunger and food insecurity as a result of wealth and income inequities often driven by systemic racism.

**Meet the Climate Crisis Head On** – To reflect your values, the next Farm Bill must also be a climate bill. We will not avoid the worst effects of climate change unless this nation reduces heat-trapping emissions, including from agriculture. Your Farm Bill must invest in research, technical assistance, and financial incentives to enable farmers and ranchers to reduce emissions and to implement farming practices and labor policies that make their farms and workers better able to withstand extreme weather. The next Farm Bill should reward farmers and ranchers who are already implementing such practices, while also enabling others to make these shifts and discouraging farming practices that are harmful to the environment and public health.

**Increase Access to Nutritious Food** - As you have noted, there are “too many empty chairs around the kitchen table because a loved one was taken by heart disease, diabetes, or other diet-oriented diseases,” and related health care costs continue to grow. Poor nutrition is now the leading cause of U.S. deaths—surpassing smoking—and racial inequities in our society frequently leave communities of color without access to nutritious foods. To reflect your values, the next Farm Bill must tackle this crisis by improving nutrition security, which your administration has defined as “consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being” for all.

**Ensure Safety and Dignity for Food and Farm Workers** – The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the vulnerability of the 20 million food and farm workers declared essential to feeding our nation. To reflect your values, the next Farm Bill must invest substantially in the people who plant, harvest, process, transport, sell, and serve our food and administer our food programs, ensuring safety and a living wage, along with access to health care, clean housing, and the right to organize and join a union. The next Farm Bill must protect food and farm workers from pesticides and extreme heat and strengthen the consequences for employers that endanger their workers. Also needed are new avenues to support the aspirations of farmworkers who wish to become farmers, and access to citizenship for workers in the U.S. food chain that does not tie them to exploitative labor practices and systems.

**Protect Farmers and Consumers** – As you have said, “capitalism without competition isn’t capitalism; it’s exploitation.” You have made competition in the U.S. economy a priority of your administration, and your Farm Bill can and must build on your efforts to promote competition in the food and agriculture sectors. Anti-competitive practices are harming small-scale farmers, workers, and consumers; hollowing out rural communities; and damaging our environment. Your Farm Bill should acknowledge these forms of damage as central criteria in defining anti-competitive food and agriculture marketplaces, while increasing long term investments in local and regional food processing and distribution. In this way, the Farm Bill can level the playing field for farmers and offer more and better choices to consumers.

**Ensure the Safety of Our Food Supply** – Thousands of people in our country die every year from foodborne illness and millions more are sickened by pathogens in meat, poultry, produce, and drinking water. Recent food safety failures have highlighted gaps in our food safety net that place consumers at unacceptable risks from pathogens. Your Farm Bill must do more to address pathogens that originate on factory farms and to make the U.S. food supply safe for everyone.

President Biden, the undersigned organizations call on you to demand a transformative Farm Bill that fully reflects these values, and that you can be proud to sign.

Sincerely,

A Better Balance  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Access East  
AFL-CIO  
Agricultural Justice Project

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA)  
A Growing Culture  
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives  
American Grassfed Association  
American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3354  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Indian Mothers Inc.  
American Sustainable Business Network  
Association for the Study of African American History (ASALH Rochester)  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Appetite For Change  
Broadway Community, Inc.  
California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN)  
California Environmental Voters  
California FarmLink  
Castanea Fellowship  
Center for Food Safety  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center for Wellness and Nutrition (Public Health Institute)  
Certified Naturally Grown  
City Harvest  
Climate Crisis Policy  
Coalition of Immokalee Workers  
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.  
Coming Clean  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)  
Community Food Advocates  
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)  
Compañeras Campesinas  
Consumer Federation of America  
Cultivate Charlottesville  
Detroit Food Policy Council  
Earthjustice  
Economic Policy Institute  
Environmental & Public Health Consulting  
Environmental Working Group  
Equity Advocates  
Fair Food Network  
Fair World Project  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farm Action  
Farm Aid  
Farm to Table - New Mexico

Farmers Market Coalition  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Farmworker Justice  
Fertile Ground  
Food & Water Watch  
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)  
Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC  
Food Chain Workers Alliance  
FoodCorps  
Food for the Spirit  
Food Insight Group  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
GC Resolve  
Georgia Foundation for Agriculture  
Georgia Organics  
Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming  
Good Food For All Coalition  
Government Accountability Project - Food Integrity Campaign  
Grazing Reform Project  
Green America  
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities  
Hand, Heart, and Soul Project, Inc.  
Health Care Without Harm  
HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance  
Hempstead Project Heart  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future  
Kansas Black Farmers Association  
Kansas Rural Center  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
Land Stewardship Project  
La Semilla Food Center  
League of Conservation Voters  
Los Jardines Institute  
LunchAssist  
Maine AFL-CIO  
Marbleseed  
Michigan Food and Farming Systems

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Food & Justice Alliance  
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health  
National Employment Law Project  
National Farm to School Network  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nebraska Appleseed  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Orleans Food Policy Action Council  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides  
Nourish Colorado  
Office of Kat Taylor  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.  
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network  
Oregon Tilth  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Organic Seed Alliance  
Oxfam America  
Ozark Akerz Regenerative Farm  
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture  
Phi Global Farms  
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste / Northwest Tree-Planters and Farmworkers United (PCUN)  
Pinnacle Prevention  
Pesticide Action Network  
Plant Based Foods Institute  
Post Carbon Institute  
Progress Michigan  
Public Justice  
Rebirth Inc.  
RegeNErate Nebraska  
Resilience Project  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union  
Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United  
Rowan Food and Farm Network

Roots of Change  
Rufty-Holmes Senior Center  
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA)  
Rural Coalition  
Savanna Institute  
Sierra Club  
Slow Food USA  
Small Planet Institute  
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Sooner Food Group  
Soul Fire Farm Institute  
Springfield Food Policy Council  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Sustainable Farming Association  
Sustainable Food Center  
Sustainable Food & Farming Program, UMASS Stockbridge School of Agriculture  
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT)  
The Farmers B.A.G.  
The Georgia Farm to School Alliance  
The Land Institute  
TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation  
Toxic Free North Carolina  
Trust for Public Land  
unBox  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
Venceremos  
Virginia Association for Biological Farming  
Wallace Center at Winrock International  
Wholesome Wave  
Wild Farm Alliance  
Women, Food and Agriculture Network  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
Worker Justice Alliance  
Working Landscapes  
Workplace Fairness