The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Ranking Member Bishop:

The undersigned organizations request that you provide at least $1.05 billion for Conservation Operations within the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027). This funding is critical to the effective administration of USDA conservation programs and provides essential tools to help farmers, ranchers, and private landowners across the country voluntarily implement effective conservation practices.

Conservation Operations funding primarily supports Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), which facilitates the administration of USDA conservation programs by supporting our conservation workforce, conservation planning, and the extension of specialized technical assistance to producers. Our country's conservation delivery system and producers across the country depend on the availability of on-the-ground technical assistance to implement effective conservation practices. Conservation Operations funding also supports NRCS soil surveys, snow surveys, water supply forecasting, and plant materials centers. These provide important information and tools to help producers monitor and manage their land more effectively.

We also request that FY 2027 appropriations legislation maintains full authorized funding for farm bill conservation programs. Voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led USDA conservation programs enjoy bipartisan support in Congress and are utilized by producers of all kinds across the United States to adopt conservation practices on their operations that enhance water quality, increase resilience, and reduce harmful emissions. Demand for these programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), exceeds available dollars by a wide margin. It is critical that FY 2027 appropriations legislation maintains full authorized funding to help more producers voluntarily implement conservation on their lands.

As your subcommittee develops the FY 2027 appropriations bill, we urge you to provide at least $1.05 billion in discretionary funding for NRCS Conservation Operations and to reject any changes in mandatory spending for farm bill conservation programs. We appreciate your attention to our request and look forward to working with you to support conservation and our nation's producers.

Sincerely,

National Association of Conservation Districts
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
American Bird Conservancy
American Farmland Trust
American Feed Industry Society
American Rivers Action fund
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sustainable Business Network
Carbon180
Certified Crop Advisers
Climate Land Leaders
Common Grain Alliance
Crop Science Society of America
Ducks Unlimited
Earthjustice Action
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Farm Aid
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Green America
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

International Fresh Produce Association
Izaak Walton League of America
Land Trust Alliance
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Young Farmers Coalition
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
North American Grouse Partnership
Pesticide Action and Agroecology Network
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
Rural Coalition
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Society for Range Management
Soil Science Society of America
The Conservation Fund
The Land Institute
The Nature Conservancy
The Wetlands Initiative
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Union of Concerned Scientists Food and Environment Program
USA Rice
Water Environment Federation
Waterkeeper Alliance
Wild Farm Alliance
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network (WFAN)
World Wildlife Fund
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Local

Agriculture and Land Based Training Association
A House Unbuilt
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network
Alaska Food Policy Council
Amherst Nurseries Inc
Anonymity Farm
Appalachian Sustainable Development
Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Beverly Jean Farm
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Brick Gardens
Broadfork Farm, LLC
Brun Ko Farm
California Certified Organic Farmers
California FarmLink
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
C.A.S.A. del Llano
Catholic Rural Life
Center for Rural Affairs
Certified Crop Advisers
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm
Clean Wisconsin
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture
Cultivate KC
Dakota Rural Action
Dancing Bear Farm
DelTa 1058
Ecological Farming Association
Endigo's Herbals & Organics
Farm School NYC
Farm to Table – New Mexico
Fawn Crossing Farms
Florida Division, IWLA
Florida Organic Growers
Food as Health Care Coalition (FAHCC) PA
FoodCorps
Fork Tail Farm LLC
Friends of the Fox River
Friends of the Mississippi River
Garst Woods LLC
Grand View Farm
GrassWorks
Grow Pittsburgh
Hampshire College Farm Center
Henosis LLC
Hickory Hill Farm
Hicks Family Farm
Highland Farm LLC
Hyde Park Farmers' Market
Illinois Division, IWLA
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Indiana Division, IWLA

Indiana Sportsmen Roundtable
Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative
Iowa Division, IWLA
Kansas Black Farmers Association
Kansas Rural Center
Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Land Stewardship Project
Levinson Armstrong Farm
little broom farm
Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group
Louisiana Small-Scale Agriculture Coalition
MacAlpine Farms, LLC
Marbleseed
Marshy Meadows Farm
Maryland Division, IWLA
Material Institute
Medicine Creek Farm
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS)
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Midwest Cover Crops Council
Milton Ranch
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Montana Organic Association
MoSo Farm
My Grow Connect
Nebraska Division, IWLA
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
Nettlepoint Farm
New Connecticut Farmer Alliance (NCTFA)
North River Friends
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society
North River Friends
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Nourish Colorado
Oak Hollow Livestock
Oak Top Farm
Ohio Division, IWLA
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Till Farmstead
One Farm

One Mississippi
Open Book Farm
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Tilth
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Planet LLC
Organic Seed Alliance
PASA Sustainable Agriculture
Pennsylvania Division, IWLA
Petit Jardin
Pinnacle Prevention
Pinhook Farm IA
Practical Farmers of Iowa
Prairie Quest Farm
Presbyterians for Earth Care
Radical Roots Farm
Renewing the Countryside
Resilient Farms LLC
Rhode Island Food Policy Council
River Queen Greens
Riverland Farm LLC
Rolling Acres Farm
Root Mass Farm
Rural Action
Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI)
Salt-n-Pepper-Farm LLC
Savanna Institute
Schriver Organics, LLC
Seven Springs Farm
Shey Family Farm
Sierra Club – Florida Chapter
South Dakota Division, IWLA
Soulaani Environmental Alliance
South Dakota Grassland Coalition
Springfield Food Policy Council
Sulphur Creek Farm
Sunny Glen Garden
Syggelekokle Farm LLC
Tangly Woods
Thistle Ridge Farm
Trouvaille Farm
Urban Equestrian
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Virginia Division, IWLA

West Virginia Division, IWLA
Wisconsin Division, IWLA
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment