

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations represent millions of farmers and ranchers, sportsmen and women, fish and wildlife professionals, conservationists, foresters, landowners, and apparel and food and beverage companies. We congratulate the Farm Bill Conferees, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and their staff for coming to an agreement on a 2018 Farm Bill that includes strong provisions to enhance the voluntary conservation efforts of our producers and private landowners.

As you well know, the agriculture and rural economy is under significant financial stress. The long-term planning and sustainability efforts of farmers, ranchers, and other landowners depends on the certainty given by a 2018 Farm Bill and its conservation provisions.

We applaud this Farm Bill agreement's fully funded Conservation Title. This agreement bolsters priority programs which play a critical role in supporting producers as they strive to make good management decisions for the sustainability of their land, water, and wildlife habitat.

We look forward to working with Congress to ensure the timely passage of this bill and the continued success of its popular and effective conservation programs.

Sincerely,

186 National, State and Local Organizations

National

American Farmland Trust
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Sportfishing Association
American Sustainable Business Council
Appalachian Mountain Club

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Clean Water Action
Danone North America
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited

Environmental Defense Fund
Fly Fishers International
Forest Stewards Guild
Hampton Lumber
Izaak Walton League of America
League of Women Voters of the United States
Living Systems
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Audubon Society
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Alliance
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Areas Association
North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
Pheasants Forever
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Quail Forever

Arkansas

Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers
Lower Mississippi River Foundation

California

350 CVA
California Center for Rural Policy
California Waterfowl
Sierra Business Council

Florida

Florida Forestry Association

Georgia

Georgia Conservancy, Inc.
Georgia Wildlife Federation
Tall Timbers Land Conservancy

Idaho

Central Idaho Rangelands Network
Lemhi Regional Land Trust

Rachel Wood Consulting
River Network
Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society
Rural Coalition
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Sazerac Company
Sinarmas
Smoked Goose Consulting, LLC
Society of American Foresters
The Conservation Fund
The Fertilizer Institute
The Nature Conservancy
The Quality Deer Management Association
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trees Forever
Trout Unlimited
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Landowners Alliance
Wrangler

Palouse Land Trust
Salmon Valley Stewardship

Illinois

Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
The Wetlands Initiative

Indiana

Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Central Indiana Land Trust
Clay County Soil & Water Conservation District
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Decatur County Soil & Water Conservation District
Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District

Hoosier Environmental Council
Howard County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Indiana Association of Soil & Water
Conservation Districts
Indiana Land Protection Alliance
Indiana's North Coast Charter Association
Indiana Wildlife Federation
Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Kosciusko County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Marion County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Marshall County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Orange County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Ouabache Land Conservancy, Inc.
St Joseph County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Vermillion County Indiana Soil & Water
Conservation District
Vigo County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Wells County Soil & Water Conservation
District
White County Soil & Water Conservation
District

Iowa

Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Iowa State University
Practical Farmers of Iowa

Kansas

Friends of the Kaw
Kansas State University
Kansas Association of Conservation
Districts
Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Massachusetts

Environmental League of MA
Essex County Greenbelt Association, Inc.
Massachusetts Audubon
Massachusetts Association of Conservation
Commissions
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
The Trustees

Michigan

Audubon Great Lakes

Minnesota

Audubon Minnesota
Conservation Minnesota
Friends of the Mississippi River
Minnesota Land Trust
Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance

Mississippi

Mississippi Farm Bureau
Wildlife Mississippi

Missouri

Ozark Regional Land Trust
Stream Teams United

Montana

Montana Wildlife Federation

Nebraska

Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities
Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation

New Mexico

Cibola Communities Economic
Development Foundation
Forest Reserve
Gila Tree Thinners
Native Earth Landscaping
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Land Conservancy
New Mexico State Land Office

South Central Mountain Resource
Conservation and Development Council,
Inc.
Sustainable Ecosystems

New York

Hunger Action Network

North Carolina

Roanoke River Basin Association

North Dakota

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Ohio

Ohio Environmental Council

Oklahoma

Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma
Myriad Botanical Gardens
Oklahoma Association of Conservation
Districts
Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden
Oklahoma Pheasants Forever
Oklahoma Quail Forever

Oregon

Ashland Fire & Rescue
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Siuslaw Institute
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration
Collaborative
Sustainable Northwest
Wallowa Resources

South Carolina

Coastal Conservation League
Forestry Association of South Carolina
Palmetto AgriBusiness Council
South Carolina Farm Bureau
Upstate Forever

South Dakota

South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Tennessee

Tennessee Clean Water Network
Tennessee Environmental Council

Vermont

Vermont Woodlands Association

Virginia

Atoka Conservation Exchange
Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
Capital Region Land Conservancy
Central Virginia Land Conservancy
Ever Green Team
James River Association
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Piedmont Environmental Council
Rappahannock League for Environmental
Protection
Valley Conservation Council
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia's United Land Trusts

Washington

Conservation Northwest
Rufus Rock Farm
Washington Association of Land Trusts

Wisconsin

Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for
Land Trusts
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
River Alliance of Wisconsin
Tall Pines Conservancy
Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation
Association
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation