

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6000
202-224-2035

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow,

The Agriculture Committee has a long history of bipartisanship. Farm Bills, Child Nutrition Reauthorizations, and other major legislation has started its path to enactment with all the members from both parties working collaboratively while seated around the table. The process should be the same for reconciliation. Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, the recently passed budget resolution, includes instructions stating that our Committee “shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than \$135,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2031.” As you know, this amount of money is over \$1 billion more than the current 10-year Farm Bill baseline for mandatory conservation and income support programs.

As the Republican members of the Committee, we respectfully request that you hold hearings with outside witnesses to learn more about the needs of our nation’s farmers, ranchers, foresters, rural communities, and those participating in our nutrition programs. We believe these hearings should be broad-based and include producers and rural community leaders from across the country, similar to what our committee has done in the past as we draft Farm Bills. The spending of \$135 billion of the taxpayers’ money should be informed by those we represent, and not solely by interest groups with Washington offices and lobbyists.

We also believe it is important for the Committee to hold a business meeting where all of the Committee’s members are afforded the opportunity to consider the legislation that you may propose, and be allowed to offer amendments. Again, as the Committee prepares to spend more money than the current Farm Bill’s income support and conservation programs, members of our Committee should have an opportunity to discuss and amend the Committee’s reconciliation package, in keeping with Committee practice, Senatorial courtesy, and fundamental fairness.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to collaborating with you on this important legislative proposal.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
Ranking Member



Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Joni Ernst
United States Senator



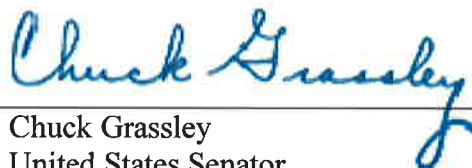
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



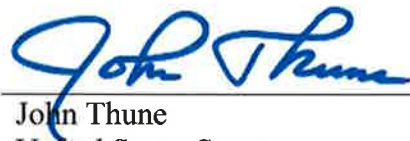
Roger Marshall
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator