

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned farm, agriculture-related and conservation organizations strongly support passage of the Continuing Resolution expected to be considered by the House before the current CR expires. The CR includes a waiver under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Statutory PAYGO) for legislation enacted in 2018. Its passage will prevent sequestration and elimination of funding for many key programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, beginning in January 2018.

Funding for mandatory programs and activities subject to sequestration that are administered by USDA is estimated at \$20 billion in FY-2018. Programs affected would include virtually all provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, with the exception of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the crop insurance program.

Action by the House and the Senate to waive sequestration under Statutory PAYGO is essential to keeping these vital programs funded in 2018. The consequences of even a short delay in providing a waiver would be severe. Many farmers and ranchers depend on the availability of USDA programs to obtain operating loans. In addition, shutting down many administrative and programmatic operations at the Department would be extremely disruptive.

We urge you and your colleagues to pass a Continuing Resolution that includes a Statutory PAYGO waiver before Congress adjourns for the year.

A similar letter is being sent to the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader in the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

25x'25 Alliance  
Agribusiness Coalition for Foreign Market Development  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Hardwood Export Council  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Malting Barley Association

American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Sweet Potato Marketing Institute  
American Walnut Manufacturers Association  
APA-The Engineered Wood Association  
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers  
Biological Products Industry Alliance  
California Safflower Growers Association  
Center for Rural Affairs  
CoBank  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Science Society of America  
Farm Credit Council  
Hardwood Federation  
Hardwood Manufacturers Association  
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association  
Leather Industries of America  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Coalition for Food And Agricultural Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grape Co-Operative Association, Inc.  
National Hardwood Lumber Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Onion Association  
National Pecan Federation  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
National Tribal Telecommunications Association  
National Wood Flooring Association  
Northern Pulse Growers Association

Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Pollinator Partnership  
Softwood Export Council  
Soil Science Society of America  
Solutions from the Land  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association  
U.S. Pecan Growers Council  
United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Welch Foods Inc., A Cooperative  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western Pulse Growers Association  
Wine Institute  
WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband

cc. Members, U.S. House of Representatives