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

c. Members, U.S. House of Representatives