



February 23, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA), including Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA and Unilever United States, writes to urge your support for provisions in the American Rescue Plan COVID-19 relief package that expand resources for and take important steps to address historic and ongoing discrimination against Black farmers and other farmers of color.

We support the provisions of Senator Raphael Warnock's (D-GA) Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act that were included in the Agriculture Title of the COVID-19 relief package passed by the House Agriculture Committee earlier this month. Those provisions include direct assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to help pay off U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loan debt, appropriations to fund USDA programs to provide essential technical and legal assistance to communities of color, and other efforts to root out discrimination across the department, down to the local jurisdiction level. It is important this language remains in the Senate bill and is not removed during budget reconciliation negotiations.

Extending economic relief to those who need it in the wake of COVID-19 and advancing equity and justice for all Americans should go hand in hand. During budget reconciliation, Congress has the opportunity to ensure that farmers and ranchers of color – who are vital to the security and resilience of the food and agriculture supply chain and the overall American economy – are offered critical resources to thrive during the current crisis while beginning to correct historic wrongs.

This is also an important step in the broader and ongoing work of addressing systemic drivers of food insecurity and supporting a more just and equitable food and agriculture system. This is not only the right thing to do, but it also puts the entire country and the economy on a long-term path for resilience, growth and security. This past year, in particular, has further underscored the need for cross-cutting leadership, advocacy and thoughtful policy action to keep people and communities safe, healthy and resilient, protect livelihoods, minimize disruptions to food and agriculture supply chains, and ensure that food gets to



where it is needed most in the United States and around the world.

We appreciate your leadership during this crucial time and thank you for your attention to this urgent matter as you work to provide much-needed relief to Americans impacted by the pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Adamo".

Chris Adamo
Vice President
Federal and Industry Affairs
Danone North America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad G. Figel".

Brad G. Figel
Vice President
Public Affairs North America
Mars, Incorporated

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly Fogarty".

Molly Fogarty
Senior Vice President
Corporate & Government Affairs, U.S.
Nestlé USA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Langan".

Tom Langan
North America Director
Sustainable Business & External Affairs
Unilever

CC:

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee
The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee
The Honorable David Scott, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Raphael Warnock, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cory Booker, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján, U.S. Senate