



March 16, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, and Ranking Member Scott,

In advance of the 2023 farm bill, we write to encourage you to ensure newly expanded investments in farm bill conservation and climate programs are maintained for climate mitigation and resilience. These investments are critical to ensuring America's farmers and ranchers can address expanding markets and changing consumer needs while managing conditions like drought and extreme weather.

The undersigned members of the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA), including Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA, and Unilever United States understand that addressing climate change, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil health is critical to not only our businesses, but also the health of the planet. Furthermore, farmers and ranchers rely on the suite of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation and climate programs to make their farms more efficient and enhance their farm practices. That is why we are advocating for support in the farm bill for innovative, science-based solutions to take action against the costly impacts of climate change, build more resilient communities, deploy renewable energy, and construct sustainable agriculture systems. Our commitment to these policy goals are outlined in our [Climate Policy Principles and Priorities](#), and we are looking forward to working with you on a 2023 farm bill that includes innovative approaches to achieving these aims.

As our companies look to the future, we continue our focus on achieving our sustainability and conservation goals – which require working closely with farmers, producers and growers. It is essential that this constituency have access to the tools they need for the greatest impact. To that end, USDA administers a number of popular programs that help farmers and ranchers improve conservation ranging from incentives for sustainable practices to increased technical assistance. There has been strong demand for these programs – indeed many are already oversubscribed – and we expect that participation will only continue to grow over time. A strong farm bill that maintains funding for these programs will build on the incredible momentum from these existing conservation programs and grants as well as more recent legislative wins by you and your staff in the omnibus.

In this spirit, we note that the climate crisis facing the food and agriculture supply chain is significant, and the funding must be proportional to the challenge. As companies that collaborate with the government, farmers and other partners as well as develop and deploy our own conservation and sustainable sourcing programs, we are acutely aware of the need for these programs to produce results and work together over time. That is why we support preserving robust USDA conservation programs in a way that is incentive-based, promotes outcomes, and complements private sector investment. We ask that current investment levels in conservation and climate programs in the 2023 farm bill be sustained. USDA has many of the tools necessary to drive solutions that have been proven to help U.S. farmers and ranchers, but these solutions can only be implemented at the scale necessary if robust funding is maintained.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue on how to best support America's farmers and ranchers and the land where they work in the 2023 farm bill.

Sincerely,

