

July 14, 2026

The Honorable G.T. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

The undersigned 101 farmer and rural community advocacy organizations wholeheartedly endorse the *Farmland for Farmers Act* (S.4391/H.R. 8531) and urge you to cosponsor this critical bill and support its inclusion in the next Farm Bill.

Over the past two decades, farmland consolidation has been increasingly driven by U.S.-based multinational corporations, private equity firms, and pension funds. The number of institutionally owned properties more than tripled from 2005 to 2025, and the market value of that property increased from less than \$2 billion to over \$16 billion in the same time period. Farmland ownership is a foundational source of wealth and power in rural America. As farmland has increasingly been consolidated under corporate ownership, evidence shows that the result in rural communities is depopulation, the loss of critical institutions such as banks and hospitals, and fewer jobs.

The trend of corporate ownership has also contributed to agricultural land prices reaching historically high levels in 2025, with farmland prices nearly tripling since 2005. According to the USDA, one acre of farmland has a national average price of \$4,350 – the highest price ever, even adjusted for inflation – with the average price of U.S. farmland increasing almost 40% from 2020 to 2025. Higher land prices provide an advantage to corporate buyers with the legal and financial resources to recruit capital from investors and outbid independent family-scale farmers – and prospective new farmers in particular. Today, land access is the single most significant challenge facing young and beginning farmers, saddling them with debt and financial risk.

For family farmers and ranchers who already own land, speculative corporate land investment also poses a threat as corporations routinely target farmers in crisis with a deluge of predatory marketing materials, pressure tactics, and forced auctions of common family lands to scale up their farmland holdings. Furthermore, lack of transparency in land markets and the use of multilevel subsidiaries to mask the identity of the corporations benefiting from these investment tactics undermines accountability and regulatory enforcement of state and national land policies. Rural communities have a right to know who is buying up, and in some cases monopolizing, natural resources including farmland in their communities.

The *Farmland for Farmers Act* would address corporate farmland investment to ensure that farmland in the U.S. stays in the hands of farmers by:

- **Curbing speculative investments:** Corporations, private equity firms, pension and investment funds would be restricted from purchasing or leasing new farmland for speculative investment to mitigate market volatility.
- **Bringing transparency in land markets:** Multi-level subsidiary structures, used to conceal farmland investments in local communities, would be limited from farmland transactions.
- **Offering family-scale farmers critical exemptions:** Corporations with 25 or fewer shareholders, partners, members, or beneficial owners who are actively engaged in farming, as well as non-profit corporations and farmer cooperatives, would all be exempt from the bill's oversight.
- **Strengthening State authority:** In providing a national standard, States would be fortified for regulating corporations involved in farmland ownership, both domestic and foreign, on a fair playing field.
- **Ensuring fair allocation of farm programs:** Critical federal agricultural programs, currently being misused by corporations to reduce their investment risk, would no longer be utilized by corporate investors, and instead would prioritize independent farmers who form the backbone of the farm sector.

Over the next 5 years, 40 million acres – about 5% of all U.S. agricultural land – is expected to change hands. With 300 million more acres of farmland to change hands over the next two decades, the stakes for rural America are high. Besides continued corporate ownership of farmland for agriculture, multinational corporations are significantly scaling buy-up of farmland for competing land uses and development, putting farmland further out of the reach of communities. If farmland does not move into the hands of independent family farmers, but rather

continues to be consolidated under corporate control, the power of rural communities to determine their futures will be undermined, with concerning implications for local community control of natural resources, national security, and the vitality of diversified rural economies.

Now is the time to address this trend and put farmer livelihoods over corporate profits. We call on Congressional leaders to work collaboratively to strengthen U.S. farmland laws by including the *Farmland for Farmers Act* in the Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

National Family Farm Coalition

Action Aid USA

Adamah

Addison County Relocalization Network
(ACORN)

Agrarian Trust

Agricultural Justice Project

Agroecology Research-Action Collective

American Agriculture Movement

American Federation of Government
Employees, Local 3354

American Grassfed Association

American Raw Milk Producers Pricing
Association

American Sustainable Business Network

Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers
Union (Ohio)

Campaign for Family Farms and the
Environment

Community Alliance for Global Justice

Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Community Farm Alliance

Cornucopia Institute

Crop Swap LA

Cultivate KC

Dakota Resource Council

Dakota Rural Action

Familias Unidas por la Justicia

Family Farm Defenders

Farm Action Fund

Farm Aid

Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance

Farm Forward

Farmer Foodshare

FarmSTAND

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy
Project – Ayuda para Trabajadores del
Campo y Jardineros (FLAP)

Farmworker Association of Florida

Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Food and Water Watch

Food for Maine's Future

Food in Neighborhoods Community
Coalition

Food Tank

Grassroots International

Greenhorns

Hawai'i Farmers Union

HEAL Food Alliance

Illinois Stewardship Alliance

Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Iowa Farmers Union

Kansas City Young Farmers

Kansas Farmers Union

Kansas Rural Center

Kentucky Black Farmers Association

Land Loss Prevention Project

Land Stewardship Project
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
Minnesota Farmers Union
Missouri Farmers Union
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
National Black Food & Justice Alliance
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Young Farmers Coalition
Nebraska Communities United
New Connecticut Farmer Alliance
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
North American Marine Alliance
Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust
(NEFOC)
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
New Jersey
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
Vermont
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
Connecticut
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
Interstate Council
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
Massachusetts
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
New Hampshire

Northern Plains Resource Council
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Farmers Union
One Fish Foundation
Open Markets Institute
OrganicEye
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Powder River Basin Resource Council
R-CALF USA
RAFI
Real Food Media
Roots 2Empower
Rural Coalition
Rural Vermont
Salmonberry Tribal Associates
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Soul Fire Farm Institute
Southern Colorado Livestock Association
SPROUT NOLA
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
The Foodshed Network
Toxic Free NC
U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance
Western Organization of Resource Councils
WhyHunger
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Women, Food and Agriculture Network
(WFAN)