

July 9, 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,

As the Senate is poised to take up farm bill activity, we, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to include the Fair Credit for Farmers Act (S.3126/H.R. 6169) in the next Farm Bill. For the past decade, family-scale producers have struggled to navigate market disruptions, natural disasters, low farm prices, high input (including land) prices, funding cancellations, and other crises. Most farmers rely on agricultural credit as a critical financial service to plant crops, invest in sustainable practices, develop new markets, diversify or scale their operations, and to adapt to unforeseen challenges.

But not all farmers have equal access to this important financial tool, undercutting their competitiveness. And for those farmers who can reliably access credit, chronically low farm prices are contributing to unsustainable levels of farm debt, leading to foreclosure and loss of rural farms and homes. With U.S. farm debt reaching historic levels—expected to climb over \$620 billion this year, steady declines in the number of farms, and an upward trend in bankruptcies in recent years, it is critical that the that credit provided by the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) is supporting farmers’ economic resilience.

The reconciliation bill passed last year (H.R. 1) made changes to Title I (known as the Commodities Title), but did not solve the systemic problems facing the farm economy, and this is especially the case for producers who may not participate in commodity programs but engage with FSA as, in its own words, the “lender of first opportunity.” As 2026 USDA data shows that U.S. agriculture continues to rapidly consolidate, increasing pressure on small-scale farmers and therefore increasing farmer reliance on public lending institutions, it is critical that FSA is servicing small-scale and diversified operations fairly and effectively. As the 2026 House Farm

Bill draft contained few credit provisions to the benefit of these producers, we believe Congress must take even bolder action to ensure basic borrower protections for farmers, and to make FSA loans fairer, more accessible, and less risky.

The Fair Credit for Farmers Act meets the moment of the economic crisis in farm country. Specifically, it would:

- **Protect farmers' homes** by limiting overcollateralization on FSA farm loans, with homes only allowed as the last option for collateral. The bill also ensures that farmers can remove their homes from the loan security once they have paid down enough of the loan, and reduces the amount of additional collateral the agency may claim when a farmer becomes delinquent.
- **Improve credit access and terms** by, among other reforms, eliminating FSA loan eligibility term limits, allowing farmers to refinance existing debt with FSA loans, restoring eligibility for farmers who received a debt write-down after experiencing financial distress outside of their control and acting in good faith, reducing FSA loan experience requirements, and waiving guaranteed loan fees for covered producers.
- **Strengthen farmer-borrower rights** by improving transparency and fairness in USDA processes, including at the National Appeals Division (NAD), by reducing red tape in the appeals process, placing the burden of proof on FSA in NAD appeals for lower-income farmer-borrowers, and expanding equitable relief when FSA erroneously denies a farmer's loan or program benefit—a error that can make or break a planting season.
- **Give farmers needed economic relief** by enacting a targeted, two-year, low-interest direct loan payment deferral, and extend the term for repayment by farmers for two years. Eligible farmers would be those who are financially distressed or delinquent borrowers.

Our public institutions and agricultural policies must provide a supportive environment for family farmers not only to be resilient in the face of economic and environmental challenges, but to actually thrive while feeding our communities. We call on Congress to work collaboratively to advance these goals by strengthening agricultural lending through the Fair Credit for Farmers Act and ensure its inclusion in the next Farm Bill or farm relief package.

Sincerely,

National Family Farm Coalition

RAFI

Action Aid USA
 Addison County Relocalization Network
 African Alliance of Rhode Island
 Agrarian Trust
 Agricultural Justice Project
 Agroecology Research-Action Collective
 American Agriculture Movement
 American Federation of Government
 Employees, Local 3354
 American Raw Milk Producers Pricing
 Association
 American Sustainable Business Network
 Americans for Financial Reform
 Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers
 Union (Ohio)
 California FarmLink
 Campaign for Family Farms and the
 Environment
 Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
 Center for Community Self-Help
 Center for Food Safety
 Climate Justice Alliance
 Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
 Coming Clean
 Community Alliance for Global Justice
 Community Alliance with Family Farmers
 Community Farm Alliance
 Crop Swap LA
 Dakota Resource Council
 Dakota Rural Action
 Earth Action, Inc.
 Environmental Working Group
 Family Farm Defenders
 Farm Aid
 Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
 Farm to Institution New England (FINE)
 Farm Women United
 Farmer Foodshare
 Farming is Life
 FarmSTAND
 Farmworker Association of Florida
 Federation of Southern Cooperatives
 Food and Water Watch
 Food for Maine's Future
 Food in Neighborhoods Community
 Coalition
 Food Tank
 Friends of Family Farmers
 Friends of the Earth
 Fruit Belt Advisory Council
 HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture,
 Labor) Food Alliance
 Illinois Stewardship Alliance
 Impacted Families Project
 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
 Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
 Kansas Rural Center
 Land Loss Prevention Project
 Mangrove Action Project
 Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
 Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
 Missouri Rural Crisis Center
 Moms for a Nontoxic New York
 National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
 National Young Farmers Coalition
 New England Farmers Union
 New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
 North American Marine Alliance
 Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
 Northeast Organic Farming Association –
 Connecticut
 Northeast Organic Farming Association –
 Interstate Council
 Northeast Organic Farming Association –
 Massachusetts
 Northeast Organic Farming Association –
 New Hampshire
 Northeast Organic Farming Association –
 New Jersey

Northeast Organic Farming Association –
New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association –
Vermont
Northern Plains Resource Council
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Farmers Union
One Fish Foundation
OrganicEye
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Pesticide Action Network
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Presbyterian Church (USA) Advocacy and
Witness
Public Citizen
R-CALF USA
Recirculating Farms
Revolving Door Project
Rise Economy (formerly California
Reinvestment Coalition)
Rural Coalition
Rural Vermont
Salmonberry Tribal Associates
Shareable

Slow Food USA
Slow Money Northern California
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Soul Fire Farm
Sprout NOLA
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust
The Cornucopia Institute
The Foodshed Network
The Phoenix Group
Toxic Free North Carolina
U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives
U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance
United Church of Christ
Until Justice Data Partners
Upstream Podcast
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
Wallace Center at Winrock International
Wellsave
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Women, Food and Agriculture Network
350 Seattle