



June 20, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer,

AGree's [Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force](#) (Task Force) supports passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, S. 3042. We applaud the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry for voting out of committee this strong legislation.

The bill includes important provisions that will harness the power of agricultural data to provide farmers and policymakers with insights into the impacts of conservation practices on farm and ranch profitability, yield variability, and risk while protecting producer privacy. The bill also provides clear, unambiguous federal rules establishing all conservation practices as legitimate for crop insurance purposes and establishes a process for crop insurance premium discounts on risk-reducing conservation practices.

S. 3042 will remove roadblocks for farmers who want to implement practices that improve soil health and water quality and reduce risk on their land. Improved data management systems and federal guidance on conservation practices will give farmers the information they need to make important land management decisions.

We commend Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, and the rest of the committee for their hard work to craft a bipartisan farm bill, and applaud Senators Klobuchar, Thune, and Donnelly for their leadership on behalf of producers and the environment. We urge the U.S. Senate to retain these important provisions as the bill is debated on the Senate floor.

The Task Force is committed to working with members of Congress in both chambers to pass a farm bill that enhances our federal risk management programs by recognizing and strengthening the link between conservation and crop insurance.

Sincerely,

American Farmland Trust
Applied GeoSolutions

Blackwoods Group, LLC
Robert Blair | Three Canyon Farms, Idaho
Danone North America
Kristin Weeks Duncanson | Highland Family Farms, Minnesota
Environmental Defense Fund
Dave Gagner | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Carl Mattson | George Mattson Farms, Montana
Jim Moseley | AGree Co-Chair, Former USDA Deputy Secretary, Indiana farmer
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Laurie Ristino | Vermont Law School
Rural Advancement Foundation International
Strategic Conservation Solutions, LLC
Unilever
Josh Woodard | Cornell University
Yoder Ag Services

CC: Members of the United States Senate