



August 2, 2018

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Peterson, Chairman Roberts, and Ranking Member Stabenow,

AGree's [Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force](#) (Task Force) and partners strongly support (1) improving agricultural data management and analysis in order to provide farmers and policymakers with knowledge about how conservation practices impact farm and ranch profitability, yield variability, and risk, and (2) better aligning conservation and risk management policy.

The Senate-passed bill includes provisions of the "Agricultural Data Act of 2018," which will direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work across its many agencies to effectively utilize data to answer important questions about which conservation practices increase producers' profitability and decrease risk, while also protecting producer privacy.

Additional language in the Senate-passed bill provides clarity in establishing certain conservation practices as legitimate for crop insurance purposes and sets out a process for crop insurance premium discounts for risk-reducing conservation practices.

The Senate provisions in Title XI will remove roadblocks for farmers who want to implement practices that improve soil health and water quality and reduce risk on their land. The Senate provision in Title XII to improve data management systems and federal guidance on

conservation practices will help provide farmers with the information they need to make important land management decisions.

We urge you to retain these important provisions in the final legislation. We are committed to working with you and the conferees to pass a farm bill that enhances our federal risk management programs by recognizing and advancing broader adoption of conservation practices, as well as clarifying that crop insurance and conservation work together.

Sincerely,

American Farmland Trust
The American Seed Trade Association
Applied GeoSolutions, LLC
Robert Blair | Three Canyon Farms, Idaho
Danone North America
Kristin Weeks Duncanson | Highland
Family Farms, Minnesota
Environmental Defense Fund
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Bruce Knight | Strategic Conservation
Solutions, LLC
Doug Lawrence | Blackwoods Group, LLC
Carl Mattson | George Mattson Farms Inc.,
Montana

Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Jim Moseley | AGree Co-Chair, Former
USDA Deputy Secretary, Indiana farmer
The Nature Conservancy
National Corn Growers Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Laurie Ristino | Vermont Law School
Rural Advancement Foundation
International
Unilever
Josh Woodard | Cornell University
Fred Yoder | Yoder Ag Services

Cc:

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
The Honorable Alma Adams
The Honorable Rick Allen
The Honorable Jodey Arrington
The Honorable Rob Bishop
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Cheri Bustos
The Honorable Steve Chabot
The Honorable James Comer
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Rick Crawford
The Honorable Kevin Cramer
The Honorable Rodney Davis

The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable Sean Duffy
The Honorable Neal Dunn
The Honorable Eliot Engel
The Honorable Joni Ernst
The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Marcia Fudge
The Honorable Bob Gibbs
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling

The Honorable John Hoeven
The Honorable Eddie Bernice
Johnson
The Honorable Ann Kuster
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Frank Lucas
The Honorable Roger Marshall
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Jim McGovern
The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
The Honorable Stacey Plaskett
The Honorable Mike Rogers
The Honorable David Rouzer

The Honorable Ed Royce
The Honorable Austin Scott
The Honorable David Scott
The Honorable John Shimkus
The Honorable Glenn Thompson
The Honorable Paul Tonko
The Honorable Filemon Vela
The Honorable Mark Walker
The Honorable Tim Walz
The Honorable Maxine Waters
The Honorable Bruce Westerman
The Honorable Ted Yoho