



May 17, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
House Committee on Agriculture
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson,

I am writing on behalf of Earthjustice, the nation's largest nonprofit environmental law organization, to express strong opposition to the proposed Farm Bill. This partisan bill undermines the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) essential investments in climate-smart agriculture programs, removing a critical tool for farmers to address climate change, improve profitability, and advance their resilience in the face of increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

The IRA funding and climate guardrails support vital and oversubscribed conservation programs that are crucial for the health and economic viability of farms across America. The popularity and oversubscription of these programs among farmers highlight their importance and the tangible benefits they provide, such as ensuring that farmers can access USDA assistance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or build soil carbon.

The proposed bill threatens to dismantle crucial investments in climate-smart agriculture that are aimed at helping farmers combat the uncertainties of climate change. These investments extend beyond environmental gains to include significant economic advantages such as supporting agricultural practices that improve yields, reduce input costs, and enhance farm resilience. Despite these benefits, the proposal unjustifiably proposes to reallocate this funding for other purposes. This is not only short-sighted, but it leaves our food system increasingly vulnerable to floods and droughts while threatening the livelihoods of countless family farms.

Further, our national forests are a key natural climate solution, and this legislation undermines the many ecological and economic values of our forests with poison pill provisions that only serve to support the logging industry. Instead of ensuring forest management decisions are based on science with community input, as the Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman is proposing, this partisan House legislation is being used to undercut bedrock environmental laws such as National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act to harm our forests; something that is reckless and dangerous.

We are in firm opposition to the current proposal. I look forward to seeing a transparent and bipartisan approach to passing the bill - the only way it will succeed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Ranjani Prabhakar
Legislative Director, Healthy Communities
Earthjustice