

Alabama Rivers Alliance * Alaska Wilderness League * Alpine Lakes Protection Society
American Bird Conservancy * American Forests * American Rivers * Amigos Bravos
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper * Audubon Society of Corvallis * Audubon Society of Portland
Bark * Beaver Valley Preservation Alliance * Beyond Pesticides
Bird Conservation Network * Born Free USA * Buffalo Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society * California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild)
Cascade Forest Conservancy * Cascadia Wildlands * Center for Biological Diversity
Cass County Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America * Center for Food Safety
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation * Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
Central New Mexico Audubon Society * Citizens Climate Lobby Bend Oregon Chapter
Clean Water Action * Coast Range Association * Coastal Enterprises, Inc. * Conservation NW
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship * Defenders of Wildlife
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families * Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Dugger Family Farm * Earthjustice * Earthworks * Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition * Environment America Environment Texas
Environmental Law & Policy Center * Environmental Protection Information Center
Farm to Table NM * Farmworker Association of Florida * Food and Water Watch
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) * Forest Issues Group * Frack Free Four Corners
Friends of Grays Harbor * Friends of the Bitterroot * Friends of the Earth
Friends of the IBA * Friends of the Inyo * Friends of the WI Wolf & Wildlife
Georgia ForestWatch * Geos Institute * Grand Canyon Trust
Great Old Broads for Wilderness Greater Hells Canyon Council * GreenLatinos
Gulf Restoration Network * Heartwood * High Country Conservation Advocates
Hispanic Federation * Idaho Conservation League * Indiana Farmers Union
Indiana Forest Alliance * Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Izaak Walton League Bush Lake Chapter * Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Kansas Rural Center * Kentucky Environmental Foundation * Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky Waterways Alliance * Klamath Forest Alliance * Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
La Montanita Coop * Lassen Forest Preservation Group * League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch * Lower Brazos Riverwatch * Maryland Ornithological Society
Maryland Pesticide Education Network * McKeesport Community Garde
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute * Milwaukee Riverkeeper * MountainTrue
National Parks Conservation Association * National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council * Nevada Conservation League
New Mexico Environmental Law Center * New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light * New Mexico Sportsmen
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance * New Mexico Wildlife Federation * New York City Audubon
Nine Mile Run Watershed Association * North Cascades Conservation Council
Northcoast Environmental Center * Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Inc.
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center * Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Ohio Environmental Council * Once a Forest * Onondaga Audubon
Oregon Environmental Council * Organic Consumers Association * Oregon Wild

Partnership for the National Trails System * PASA, Sustainable Agriculture * PennFuture
Pennsylvania Council of Churches * People and Pollinators Action Network
Pesticide Action Network North America * Pollinate Minnesota * Public Citizen
Quiet Use Coalition * Rio Grande Restoration
Rio Grande Valley Broadband of Great Old Broads for Wilderness * River Network
Rocky Mountain Wild * Rural Coalition * Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment
San Diego Audubon Society * Santa Fe Forest Coalition * San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council * Save EPA * Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Save the Manatee Club * Save Wolves Now Network * Sequoia ForestKeeper®
Sheep Mountain Alliance * Sierra Club * Sierra Club Ohio Chapter
Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter * Sierra Foothills Audubon Society * Sierra Forest Legacy
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council * South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council * Southern Environmental Law Center
The Enviro Show * The Lands Council * The Wilderness Society * Toxic Free NC
Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group * Turtle Island Restoration Network
Umpqua Watersheds, Inc. * Union of Concerned Scientists * Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Virginia Association for Biological Farming * Washington Trails Association
WE ACT for Environmental Justice * Western Environmental Law Center
Western Nebraska Resources Council * Western Watersheds Project
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy * Wild Farm Alliance
WildEarth Guardians * Wilderness Workshop * Winter Wildlands Alliance
Women, Food and Agriculture Network * Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Yaak Valley Forest Council * Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

August 22, 2018

Dear Farm Bill Conferee,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the nation, our groups urge you to oppose all anti-environmental riders and support full conservation title funding in any final agreement between House and Senate conferees when reauthorizing our farm and nutrition programs.

There are more than 40 problematic provisions that undermine our environment and attack conservation in the House passed version of H.R. 2. Many of these controversial measures have already been rejected as standalone provisions and should not find refuge in any legislative vehicle, including the Farm Bill. Further, we reject the changes in the House version of H.R. 2 made to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which hurt communities most in need and make it harder for low-income households to put food on the table.

Our nation needs and deserves a bipartisan Farm Bill that fosters food security and rural development without harm to clean water, wildlife, lands and public health, while supporting programs that help farmers respond to the challenges they face due to climate change, such as extreme weather, wildfire, flooding and drought.

As you head into conference, the undersigned groups urge you to reject H.R. 2 as passed by the House. While not all of our organizations work on all of the issues listed below, we are united in our desire to see a bipartisan bill that supports our nation's agricultural and conservation strengths while ensuring none of harmful provisions from the House Farm Bill are included in a final agreement.

As such, we encourage you to consider the following issues during your negotiations:

- **Clean Water** – H.R. 2 includes several sweeping attacks to vital clean water protections. Sections 9117 and 9118 together would gut Clean Water Act safeguards that keep our communities safe from pesticides sprayed directly into our water supplies. Pesticide contamination has contributed to nearly 2,000 instances of water impairment across the US, yet this “Poison Our Waters Provision” would take away any meaningful oversight of pesticides being sprayed directly into our waterways by slashing the commonsense Clean Water Act General Pesticide Permit Program and instead relying only on the federal pesticide registration law (the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)), which does not require the tracking of pesticide applications.

An amendment was added to H.R. 2 that would repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule, a commonsense safeguard that protects the drinking water sources of 117 million people and protects streams, headwaters, wetlands, and other water bodies that serve as critical habitat for wildlife, reduce flooding risk, and naturally filter pollution. This dangerous provision ignores the strong scientific foundation of the Clean Water Rule and subverts the entire rulemaking process by disregarding public input, including the over 1.5 million comments submitted in support of the Rule and opposing attempts to roll it back. Ultimately, this rider is nothing more than an attempt to help the Administration with their reckless, unpopular, and failing effort to decimate clean water protections.

- **Conservation** – Conservation takes an overall cut of nearly \$1 billion in H.R. 2. Most alarmingly within the title, the bill proposes to eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program by acreage and the only Farm Bill program focused on advanced conservation systems to comprehensively protect natural resources, including soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat. The elimination of CSP, even while adding "stewardship contracts" within EQIP, eliminates nearly \$5 billion in funding for voluntary working lands conservation programs and fails to retain the core components of CSP, including a whole farm approach to conservation, an emphasis on environmental benefits, and the eligibility requirement to reach a good environmental stewardship level to enroll.

- **Endangered Species** – This bill would severely undermine vital Endangered Species Act protections. Among the anti-wildlife provisions in this legislation is one of the most sweeping attacks ever on the Endangered Species Act: a “Poisoned Pollinator Provision” that seeks to eliminate liability when pesticides that are registered under the new procedures in the bill harm and kill species protected under the Act. This provision would also cut the expert federal wildlife agencies out of the Endangered Species Act consultation process, severely curtailing the government’s ability to assess the effects of toxic pesticides on imperiled species, including pollinators, salmon, California condors, and whooping cranes. Yet another provision would undermine important Endangered Species Act consultations for forest management projects.
- **Forests/Public Lands** – The bill is replete with provisions that undermine bedrock environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule). This bill consistently prioritizes the logging industry over all other national forest stakeholders. It would cause irreparable harm to our public lands; the millions of Americans who depend on them for clean drinking water, subsistence, recreation, and economic benefit; and the wildlife that call them home.
- **Pesticides** – Section 9119 of the Farm Bill would facilitate the registration of harmful pesticides (via PRIA reauthorization) without any safeguards for the protection of farmworkers, pesticide applicators, and rural communities from pesticide exposure. Additionally, Section 9101 of the Farm Bill would preempt cities, counties and communities from taking action to restrict certain uses of pesticides to protect the health of children, workers, consumers or the environment. Also, Section 9121 would carve out unwarranted new exemptions from the international ban on the ozone-depleting and highly toxic pesticide methyl bromide.
- **States’ Rights** – With the inclusion of Representative King’s HR 4879 legislation, the Farm Bill would prohibit state and local governments from protecting their citizens from agricultural products imported from other states by restricting their ability to regulate or legislate protections against such products. It would also strip the public of state law protections for agricultural products, and the accompanying right to enforce those protections through access to state courts. This attack on the public’s substantive protections under state law and associated judicial rights is even more egregious because the bill language also expands judicial rights for industry in alarming ways.

In sum, we encourage you to remove ideological and special interest giveaways and provisions that harm public health and the environment in any Farm Bill. We encourage you to agree upon a clean, noncontroversial Farm Bill that fosters food security and environmental sustainability. Thank you for your review and consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

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