January 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, and Ranking Member Scott,

As agricultural researchers and educators at many different institutions, we write to urge you to ensure robust support for research into sustainable and climate-friendly practices in the 2024 Farm Bill, and in particular the codification of the US Department of Agriculture Climate Hubs accompanied by consistent annual appropriations. Continued and expanded public agricultural research is critical to addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Additional and assured research into climate-friendly practices will benefit farmers and ranchers across the nation, accelerate industry innovation, and strengthen food security.

The USDA Climate Hubs serve as non-partisan beacons of knowledge and expertise, fostering collaboration among scientists, producers, and stakeholders of all backgrounds. Climate Hubs directly impact the lives of farmers and ranchers, providing them with essential tools, resources, and knowledge to adapt to a rapidly changing climate. By offering guidance on crop selection, soil management, pest control, and water resource management, the Climate Hubs enable these vital stakeholders to make informed decisions, safeguard their livelihoods, and contribute to the nation's food security.

The Climate Hubs also empower universities to conduct cutting-edge studies, develop sustainable solutions, and train the next generation of climate-resilient agricultural professionals. They provide a wealth of data, research opportunities, and practical insights that enrich our understanding of climate change's effects on agriculture.

Finally, the Climate Hubs advance industry research and development, bridging the gap between scientific discovery and practical application. This fosters innovation and competitiveness within the agricultural sector while simultaneously addressing climate-related challenges.
We, the 130 undersigned academics and researchers, implore you to prioritize the codification of this program under the Farm Bill and ensure its consistent annual appropriations.* By taking this action, you would help strengthen academic research, foster industry innovation, and empower farmers and ranchers to ensure a sustainable, secure future for our nation’s agriculture. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working collaboratively to secure the future of the USDA Climate Hubs program.

*Affiliations are for identification purposes only, and should not be construed to reflect the opinion of institutions or employers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ariela Haber, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Patricia Morris, American Geophysical Union (AGU)
American Society of Agronomy
Dr. Bhuwan Thapa, Appalachian State University
Tayler A Schillerberg, Auburn University
Phebian Odufuwa, Boise State University
Dr. Mark Friedl, Boston University
Dr. Nicolas Choquette-Levy, Boston University
Dr. Tyler Anthony, California Department of Water Resources
Dr. Jennifer Marlow, California State Polytechnic University - Humboldt
Dr. Jennifer Pett-Ridge, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Carbon180
Dr. Gretchen Kroh, Carbon180
Center for Food Safety
Dr. Fawibe Kehinde O, Chiba University, Japan
Pamela Tate, Climate Reality Project Chicago
Climate Reality Project Regenerative Agriculture Coalition
Dr. Meagan Schipanski, Colorado State University
Dr. Michael G. Ryan, Colorado State University
Professor Peter Lehner, Columbia Law School

Coming Clean
Dr. Greeshma Gadikota, Cornell University
Dr. William Philpot, Cornell University
Zoe Barr, Cornell University

Creekside Science
Crop Science Society of America
Aimee Delach, Defenders of Wildlife
Professor Michelle B. Nowlin, Duke University School of Law

Earthjustice
Dr. Kim Mattson, Ecosystems Northwest
Dr. Ann Blake, Environmental & Public Health Consulting

Environmental Defense Fund
Dr. Yolanda Whyte, Ethical And Respectful Treatment of Humans
Dr. Melissa Lane, Fibernetics LLC

Emily Skibinski, Georgia Institute of Technology
Dr. William J. Neal, Grand Valley State University

Dr. Josh Fisher, Hydrosat
Dr. Richard P Phillips, Indiana University

International Center for Technology Assessment
Dr. Sheila Ward, International Society of Tropical Foresters

Akwasi Asamoah, International Society of Tropical Forestry

Kansas Black Farmers Association
Dr. John Ella Holmes, Kansas Black Farmers Association

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Dr. Samantha Weintraub-Leff, National Ecological Observatory Network

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