Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, Ranking Member Scott, Members of both Committees,

Direct, mandatory public funding for agriculture research in the Farm Bill is vital.

The importance of this funding cannot be overstated, as it serves not only the farmers who rely on it for informed decision-making but also the broader research community, including universities and non-profit organizations. These programs significantly benefit the rural communities that actively participate in and host these crucial research projects; every dollar invested in public agricultural research, an impressive $20 of benefits is generated.\(^1\) Despite this well-documented impact, public funding for agricultural research has experienced a 20% decline since the turn of the century, while funding for other research areas has increased during the same period.\(^2\)

We can no longer afford to cut funding for agriculture research. As we move to the drafting process of the 2023 Farm Bill, the following signatories strongly urges the Committees on Agriculture to safeguard and expand the existing funding in Title VII. The investments made through this title not only directly support critical research programs but also sustain the extension services that farmers across the nation rely upon to maintain profitable and environmentally sustainable operations.

\(^2\) /Id.
Title VII includes a range of programs that were established by Congress to address needs for a wide gamut of affected communities. For instance, the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and the Organic Research and Extension Initiative were created to fill gaps in understanding within specific agricultural sectors. Programs like the 1890 Scholarships and Tribal College Endowment Program aim to support and nurture the next generation of agricultural researchers. Initiatives such as the Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture program focus on comprehending the unique challenges faced in specific growing conditions. These programs and initiatives were established by Congressional direction to address significant questions and persistent needs, and they demand continued and expanded support.

The public financial support for agricultural research, which we urge this committee to strengthen, has already experienced significant decreases over the past two decades. As a group of organizations, businesses, and research institutions deeply committed to the advancement of agricultural knowledge, we firmly believe that now is not the time to further diminish their funding, but rather to reverse this concerning trend and secure a prosperous future for our agricultural sector.

We thank the committee for its unwavering interest in supporting agricultural research and extension programs. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate closely with the committee to ensure the provision of robust funding and the continued advancement of agricultural research.

Organic Farming Research Foundation

Agricultural Justice Project
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Society for Horticultural Science
April Joy Farm
Betteravia Farms, LLC.
Beyond Pesticides
Bonterra Organic Estates
Braga Fresh
Brand Pollinators
California FarmLink
Carbon180
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Casa Sanchez Foods
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Clif Bar & Company
Climate Land Leaders
Conscious Container
Ecological Farming Association
Evergreen Sustainability, LLC
Farm Aid
Fireplace Editions
Fogline Farm LLC
Friends of Alemany Farm
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Mississippi River
Front Porch Farm, LLC
Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research
Hanover Co-op Food Stores of NH & VT
Healthy Way Market
Here We Are Farm
Humble Snacks
Iowa Organic Association
Jóia Food & Fiber Farm
Kamut International
Kind of Wild Wines
LaRocca Vineyard’s.com
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance
Narrative Food
National Organic Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Natural Grocers
Nature’s Path Foods Inc
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association Massachusetts (NOFA-MA)
Northeast Organic Farming Association New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
OLIPOP
Orchard Pond Organics
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Tilth
Organic Farmers Association
Organic Seed Alliance
Organic Trade Association
Organic Valley
Pacha
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Pesticide Action Network
Planet FWD
Potomac Vegetable Farms Inc.
Premiums for the Planet
Pure Strategies
Rodale Institute
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
Seventh Generation
Spottwoode Estate Vineyard & Winery
Sprout NOLA
Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems
SymBio Impex Corp
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
The Cornucopia Institute
The Food Co-op, Port Townsend
The Synergy Company
Tomworks
UCSC Center for Agroecology
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of Vermont
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)
Wild Farm Alliance
Wolf & Associates
Women, Food and Agriculture Network