



August 3, National Farmers joined National Farmers Union and American Farm Bureau, along with other farm organizations, signing a letter of support for the Farm Bill. The letter was sent to Farm Bill Conference Committee Chairmen, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Ky., and Rep. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, along with ranking members Senator Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Rep. Colin Peterson, D-Minn.

The letter thanked them for their extensive work to pass a Farm Bill out of their respective chambers. "Americans must have a five-year Farm Bill ahead of the Sept. 30 expiration of the Agricultural Act of 2014. We urge you to quickly reconcile the bills' differences and pass a conference report so that it can be enacted into law," the letter said.

The farm organizations reminded the conference committee the farm economy is under significant financial stress, with income levels half of what they were when 2014 Farm Bill was written. They urged development of a strong and predictable safety net that includes important risk management tools, such as crop insurance, to weather the economic downturn in the farm economy.

The groups underscored that low-income Americans rely on a number of vital nutrition programs authorized through the Farm Bill, and urged the committees to find common ground that meets the needs of the unfortunate. The letter said, while the overall economy has improved, the need remains significant.

The groups said the investments made in on-farm conservation programs and practices have yielded environmental improvements not only for farmers, but also for surrounding communities, and residents.

"As you know, the expansive nature of the farm bill touches a host of other priorities including beginning farmers, credit, organics, trade promotion, horticulture, research, food aid, forestry, bioenergy, regulatory certainty, and others," the letter said.