



June 26, 2023

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Forever Maryland

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Delmarva Chicken Association

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Lindsay Thompson
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Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Drew Getty
Perdue Farms

Zack Evans
Mountaire Farms

Michelle Schmidt
DE Center for the Inland Bays

Steve Kline
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4822

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chair, Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1013

Dear Chairs Stabenow and Thompson and Ranking Members Boozman and Scott,

The Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative (DLLC) is comprised of chicken companies, farmers, regulatory agencies, academia, and conservation groups. The Collaborative was created to build cross-sector relationships to identify science-based solutions and guide their effective implementation to achieve profitable chicken and grain farming, clean water, and thriving ecosystems on the Delmarva Peninsula of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Our vision is that farming and poultry production on Delmarva are economically viable, environmentally sound, and can serve as a national model.

The Farm Bill is an essential tool to meet the needs of Delmarva's agricultural producers and our natural resources. As Congress works to assemble the pieces of a new comprehensive Farm Bill, the DLLC appreciates the opportunity to share our coalition's topline shared priorities with the committees.

- **Enact a Farm Bill that maintains a strong safety net for producers, including those impacted by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.**
- **Ensure robust funding levels for the Farm Bill's full suite of Conservation Title programs by including Inflation Reduction Act investment levels as part of the baseline.**
- **Explore innovative ways to enhance outcome delivery by strengthening the valuation of conservation's role in risk reduction in the federal crop insurance program.**
- **Expand the ability of trusted local partners with strong track records - including educational institutions, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and state agencies - to assist implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs. Ease the**

path for non-federal experts to become eligible technical service providers and supply increased training and incentives to build the pipeline of trained conservation professionals.

- **Support mandatory funding for investment in research facilities at land-grant universities.**
- **Improve the Regional Conservation Partnership Program by maintaining the Chesapeake region as a Critical Conservation Area and increasing flexibility of funding use by partners and NRCS staff. Allow partners to utilize standard procurement procedures to test and demonstrate new conservation practices and conservation delivery methods.**

The DLLC would like to thank the committee leadership for its work up to this point on reauthorization of the Farm Bill, and the DLLC urges Congress to pass a new Farm Bill before the expiration of the current legislation and forgo the need for extension. Adopting a Farm Bill prior to its expiration is critical for both production agriculture and resource conservation, particularly on the Delmarva Peninsula where farming and natural resources are the backbone of our economy and quality of life. The members of the DLLC stand ready to discuss our topline priorities in further detail and encourage committee staff to reach out if we can be of further service.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the ongoing development of the next Farm Bill.

Sincerely,



Josh Hastings

Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative, Chair

Cc:

Senator Tom Carper (DE)

Senator Chris Coons (DE)

Senator Ben Cardin (MD)

Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD)

Senator Tim Kaine (VA)

Senator Mark Warner (VA)

Representative Andy Harris (MD)

Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)

Representative Jen Kiggans (VA)

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*For More Information, Contact: Paula Jasinski, DLLC Coordinator
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