



April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Leahy and Ranking Members Granger and Shelby:

As Congress develops fiscal year 2023 (FY23) appropriations legislation, the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA) encourages you to prioritize U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) programs that support our industries' efforts to reduce GHG emissions and build climate-resilient landscapes.

FACA consists of organizations representing farmers, ranchers, forest owners, agribusinesses, manufacturers, the food and innovation sector, state governments, sportsmen, and environmental advocates. Our organizations have broken through historical barriers to develop and promote shared climate policy priorities across the entire agriculture, food, and forestry value chains.

For FY23, we respectfully request robust funding and additional resources for the following programs:

1. \$5,000,000 for FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine to expedite animal feed ingredient reviews and approvals.

A study by Informa Economics found that, on average, it takes three to five years to get an animal food ingredient reviewed by the Center for Veterinary Medicine. The resulting delay and associated expenses with the current review of animal feed additives and supplements stifle innovative efforts to reduce enteric methane emissions. FACA requests a \$5,000,000 appropriation for FY23 specifically to more staff, improve infrastructure, and provide IT assistance to conduct animal food ingredient reviews; this funding level would build on the increase of \$1,000,000 provided in the FY22 omnibus.

2. \$30,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) supports voluntary efforts to improve the management, productivity, and health of the Nation's privately owned grazing lands. Additional funding is necessary to meet a growing unmet need for technical advisory services to grazing lands managers and landowners in response to changing climatic conditions and supply chain pressures.

FACA requests a \$30,000,000 appropriation for FY23, building on the \$14,000,000 provided in the FY22 omnibus. In addition, we submit the following report language:

Conservation of Private Grazing Lands. The Committee supports the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and recognizes the importance of collaborative technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers effectively manage grazing lands to protect water quality, improve soil health and biodiversity, sequester carbon in the soil, and increase resilience and producer profitability. The Committee directs NRCS to allocate GLCI funds through competitive grants and cooperative agreements to support partnerships that address unique grazing lands needs at the local, state, and regional levels. GLCI partnership agreements may provide grazing lands conservation technical services for grazing planning and implementation, workshops and demonstrations, peer-to-peer education and support for producer networks, conferences, and producer outreach. The Committee further directs USDA to report annually to the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House and Senate Agriculture Committees on outcomes of GLCI-funded projects and programs.

3. \$15,500,000 in new funding for USDA's Forest Inventory and Analysis program to improve carbon monitoring and measuring.

The USDA's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program within the Forest Service represents the only source of forest data and analysis that is national in scope and consistent in measurements. While FIA is a tremendous resource of data and analysis, the demands for information on forest carbon are becoming more varied – while the current design and capabilities of the program are unable to meet the growing needs demanded. For FY23, FACA requests \$15,500,000 in new funding, building on the increase of \$4,500,000 provided in FY22 omnibus.

This funding should be used to: (1) standardize FIA field protocols and analysis nationally to ensure credible and consistent data and analysis, expand investments in and integration of remote sensing and satellite technologies and programs with field data, and improve online tools that support real-world applications of the data; (2) assess landscape-scale or regional-scale net carbon stocking; and (3) direct FIA to accelerate data collection on the base grid to a 5-year remeasurement cycle nationwide across all forest types, including all privately owned forests, and ensure the program has sufficient funding to support this activity.

Any additional funding to FIA should be additive and should not take away from any other Forest and Rangeland Research funding line.

4. Encourage USDA to conduct a study on renewable energy initiatives.

FACA is not aware of any recent national study that assesses the on-farm renewable energy landscape. To better inform future investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, we encourage USDA to conduct a study on current initiatives.

Study of Renewable Energy Initiatives. The Committee recognizes the tremendous opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the U.S. agriculture sector by addressing energy consumption and energy production. The Committee directs USDA to conduct a study to examine the status of agricultural energy efficiency adoption, renewable energy production, and biofuels deployment. The study should identify barriers to adoption and opportunities to

increase agricultural energy efficiency and renewable energy production and use including but not limited to solar, wind, biomass, biofuels and biogas. The Department should consider options to address those barriers while also identifying what additional resources, if any, the agency may need to encourage efficiency upgrades and renewable energy use and production on farms and throughout the agricultural supply chain. Additional considerations should include geographic and production system variances, barriers to scaling, the state of energy efficiency and renewable energy technology for agricultural and livestock production and potential technology transfer across agricultural sectors. The study should be provided not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

5. Support robust funding for Cooperative Extension and State Agricultural Experiment Stations.

The Cooperative Extension System (CES) is a network of land-grant-university-connected state, tribal, and local educators who deliver vital, timely, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, communities, youth, and families. Extension's informal educators and professionals conduct on-farm research and education, nutrition education, workforce training, and youth/adult volunteer activities, focusing on community success and quality of life. Experiment Station scientists provide research that fuel Cooperative Extension's hands-on education curriculum. FACA strongly supports increased funding for Cooperative Extension and State Experiment Stations activities.

We thank you for your consideration of our FY23 requests, and look forward to working with your Committees to ensure robust funding for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

The Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance

CC:

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Andy Harris, Acting Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable John Hoeven, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Honorable David Joyce, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies