

March 8, 2005

The Honorable Judd Gregg, Chairman
Budget Committee
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Nussle, Chairman
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gregg and Chairman Nussle:

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) was enacted three years ago following two years of exhaustive debate in the House and Senate. The new farm law represents a delicate balance by effectively addressing the stability of our agricultural production base, protecting our important natural resources, enhancing nutrition and food assistance programs in our Nation, and providing adequate research funding for our future.

The mandatory programs administered by the Department of Agriculture (i.e., commodity, conservation, crop insurance, export promotion programs, nutrition, forestry and other valuable programs) are of enormous importance to farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, low-income Americans and all our nation's children. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Budget Committees to avoid reconciliation instructions to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

In addition, we urge the Budget Committees to adequately fund discretionary spending. Given the cuts agricultural programs have already sustained over the last several years, we ask that you not adopt a discretionary spending level that requires agricultural programs to take additional budget reductions.

The undersigned organizations respectfully urge the House and Senate Budget Committees not to include any reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution to the Senate Committee on Agriculture or the House Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
Adrenaline, Inc., Atlanta
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Peanut Producers Association
Alameda County Community Food Bank, Oakland
America's Second Harvest—The Nation's Food Bank
Network
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Beekeeping Federation
American Corn Growers Association
American Cotton Exporters Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation

American Federation of State, County & Municipal
Employees (AFSCME)
American Institute of Wine and Food Atlanta Chapter,
Atlanta
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Americans for Democratic Action
Anti-Hunger Action Committee, Salt Lake City
Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
Arkansas Food Bank Network Inc., Little Rock, AR

Association of Arizona Food Banks
Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta
Atlantic Cotton Association
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, Gainesville
CACFP National Professional Association
California WIC Association
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, Austin
Capital Area Food Bank, Washington, DC
CCFP Roundtable, San Francisco
Center for Civil Justice, Saginaw
Center for Food Action
Central Virginia Foodbank, Inc., Richmond
Central WI Community Action Council, Inc, Lake
Delton
CHANNELS Food Rescue, Lemoyne
Chattanooga Area Food Bank, Chattanooga
Children's Alliance
Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Hillside
Community Food Warehouse, Farrell
Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana,
Inc., Ft. Wayne
Concho Valley Regional Food Bank, San Angelo
Congressional Hunger Center
Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS)
Co-opportunity, Inc., Hartford
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairylea Cooperative Inc.
DC Action for Healthy Kids
DC Hunger Solutions
EBT Industry Council of the Electronic Funds Transfer
Association
Electronic Funds Transfer Association
Emergency Food & Shelter Program at United Way of
New York City
End Hunger CT
End Hunger Network
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Farm Credit Council
Federation of Virginia Food Banks
Florida Peanut Producers Association
Food Bank Council of Michigan
Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage
Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina,
Raleigh
Food Bank of Central New York, East Syracuse
Food Bank of Lincoln, Lincoln
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Reno
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
Food Bank of South Jersey, Pennsauken
Food Bank of the Rockies, Denver
Food For Families / Food For Seniors (CSFP), New
Orleans
Food Lifeline, Shoreline
Food Research and Action Center
FOODLINK, Rochester

Foodshare, Windsor
Hartford Food System, Hartford
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Peanut Commission
Gleaners' Food Bank of Indiana, Inc., Indianapolis
God's Pantry Food Bank, Lexington, KY
Great Plains Food Bank, Fargo
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger,
Philadelphia
Harvest Hope Food Bank, Columbia
Hispanic Health Council
Houston Food Bank
Human Services Coalition of Miami-Dade, Inc.
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Independent Community Bankers of America
Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America
Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues
Island Harvest, Mineola
Just Harvest, Pittsburgh
Kansas Action for Children, Topeka
Live Poets Society, Decatur
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry--Colorado
Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New
Jersey, Trenton
Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State
Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Inc.
MANNNA, Nashville
Mass Law Reform Institute
Mat-Su Services for Children & Adults, Inc.
Meal Magic Corporation
Memphis Food Bank, Memphis, TN
Mercer Street Friends, Trenton
Michigan Milk Producers Federation
Mid-Atlantic Anti-Hunger Coalition
Minnesota FoodShare
Mississippi Food Network, Jackson, MS
Missoula Food Bank, Missoula
Montana Food Bank Network, Missoula
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen
National Association of Resource Conservation
Development Councils
National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Association of State Universities and Land
Grant Colleges
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National CACFP Forum
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National CSFP Association
National Farmers Union
National Grain Sorghum Producers
National Immigration Law Center

National Milk Producers Federation
 National Priorities Project
 National Sunflower Association
 National WIC Association
 National Women's Law Center
 Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance, Seattle
 NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
 New England Financial, Alpharetta
 New Hampshire Food Bank, Manchester
 New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition
 NEWCAP, Inc, Oconto
 North Texas Food Bank, Dallas
 Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Waterloo
 Northwest Harvest, Seattle
 Northwest Louisiana Food Bank, Shreveport
 Norwich Human Services, Norwich
 Nutrition Consortium of New York State
 Oregon Food Bank
 Oregon Human Rights Coalition
 Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks
 Pennsylvania Hunger Action
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Washington Office
 Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
 Public Justice Center, Baltimore
 Public Policy Center of Mississippi, Jackson
 Rain & Hail Insurance Society
 Redwood Empire Food Bank, Santa Rosa
 Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Latham
 RESULTS
 Rice Belt Warehouses
 Roadrunner Food Bank, Albuquerque
 Rural Community Insurance Services
 Saint Joseph Food Pantry, New Paltz
 San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio
 San Diego Food Bank, San Diego
 San Francisco Food Bank, San Francisco
 School Nutrition Association
 Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, Inc.,
 Anderson
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and
 Acadiana
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, Charlotte
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee,
 Nashville
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San
 Benito Counties, Watsonville
 SLV Senior Center
 Shared Harvest Food Bank, Fairfield
 Sisters of Mercy Region2 NH
 South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center,
 Columbia
 South Plains Food Bank, Lubbock
 South Texas Food Bank, Laredo
 Southeast Dairy Farmers Association
 Southern Cotton Association
 Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
 Southern Tier Independence Center, Binghamton
 Soybean Producers of America
 St Johns Lutheran Church (ELCA) Youth Group
 Statewide Emergency Food and Anti-Hunger Network
 Statewide Poverty Action Network
 Texas Association of Second Harvest Food Banks
 Texas Cotton Association
 The Advocacy for the Poor, Inc., Winston-Salem
 The Alliance of Western Milk Producers
 The Center for Community Solutions, Cleveland
 The Every Child Matters Education Fund
 The Food Bank, Omaha
 The Food Bank of Central Louisiana, Alexandria
 The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield
 The Food Connection, Tacoma
 The Greater Boston Food Bank, Inc., Boston
 The Nature Conservancy
 U.S. Apple
 U.S. Canola Association
 U.S. Rice Producers Federation
 United Ministries, Inc., Baltimore
 United Way Community Food Bank, Birmingham
 University District Food Bank, Seattle
 USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
 USA Rice Federation
 Utahns Against Hunger, Salt Lake City
 Utica/Central New York Citizens in Action, Utica
 Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger
 Vermont Foodbank, Inc., South Barre
 Vidalia Onion Business Council
 Voices for America's Children
 Volunteers of America
 Washington Association of Churches, Seattle
 Washington Food Coalition, Seattle
 Weld Food Bank, Greeley
 Welfare Law Center
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Western Cotton Shippers Association
 Western Peanut Growers Association
 Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium
 Western United Dairymen
 Westmoreland County Food Bank, Delmont
 Women Involved in Farm Economics