

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 23, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Farm Bill Conferee:

We are Senators who voted in favor of the Senate Farm Bill, which passed our chamber in a bipartisan vote of 86-11. As you begin your conference committee discussions to reconcile the Senate Farm Bill with the House-passed Farm Bill, we write to oppose environmental riders.

Avoiding controversial provisions that erode landmark environmental laws could pave the way to an on-time and widely supported reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Including environmental riders in the conference committee's deliberations will undoubtedly yield a partisan and protracted process that will prolong uncertainty for stakeholders and may ultimately produce a conference report that lacks the requisite votes for passage.

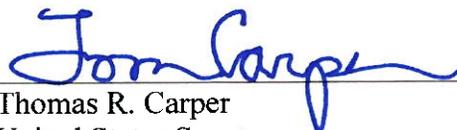
The Senate Farm Bill is the product of thoughtful, bipartisan negotiations, which resulted in a historic vote in favor of the bill's passage. We hope the President can sign a Farm Bill conference report into law before the current legislation expires on October 1. Unfortunately, the House Farm Bill contains a number of damaging anti-environment provisions that now make meeting the upcoming reauthorization deadline exceedingly difficult. These harmful riders, spread throughout the Forestry, Horticulture, and Miscellaneous titles of the House bill, subjected the legislation to unnecessary opposition on the House floor and now complicates the bipartisan cooperation needed to pass a final conference report.

Again, we write to express our strong opposition to gutting bedrock U.S. environmental and public health protections with provisions that threaten our air, water, lands, and wildlife. We urge you to bring forward a reconciled 2018 Farm Bill that is free of ideological distractions.

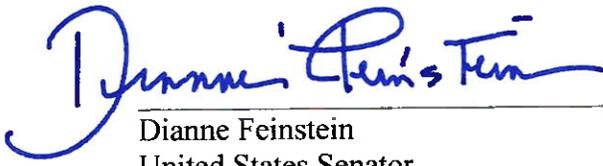
Sincerely,

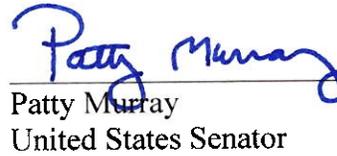


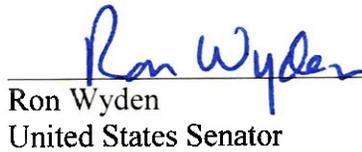
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

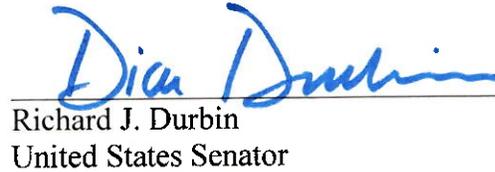


Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

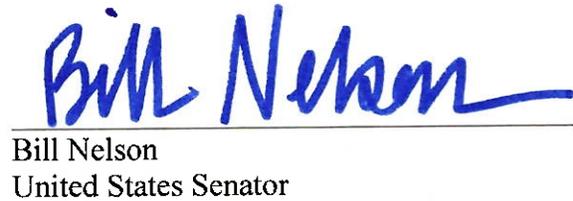

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

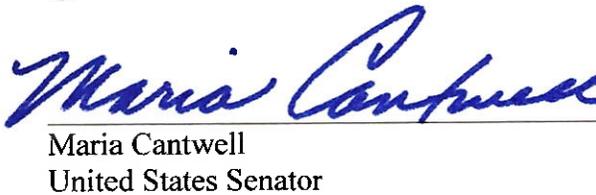

Patty Murray
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

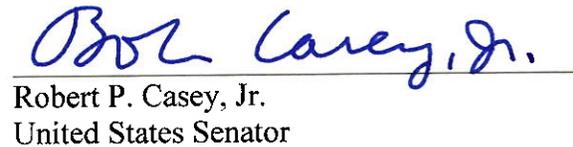

Jack Reed
United States Senator

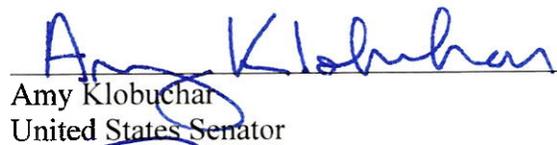

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

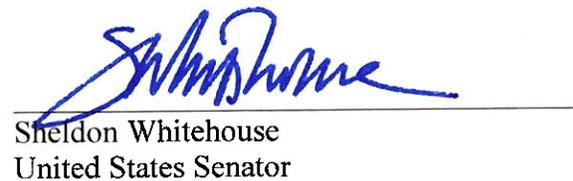

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

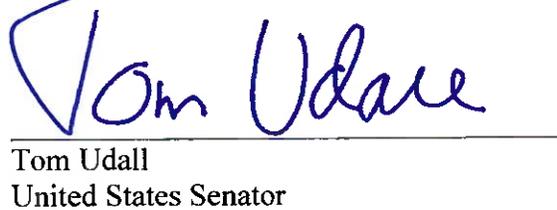

Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

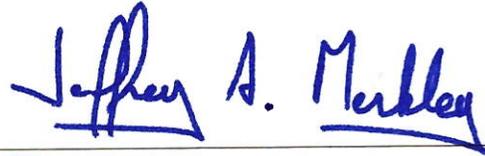

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Tom Udall
United States Senator


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



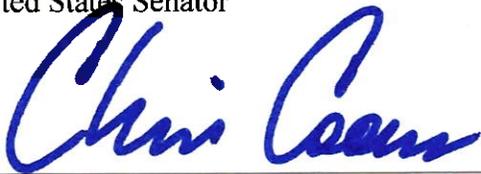
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



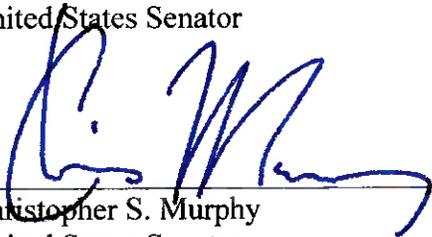
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



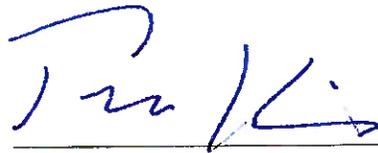
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



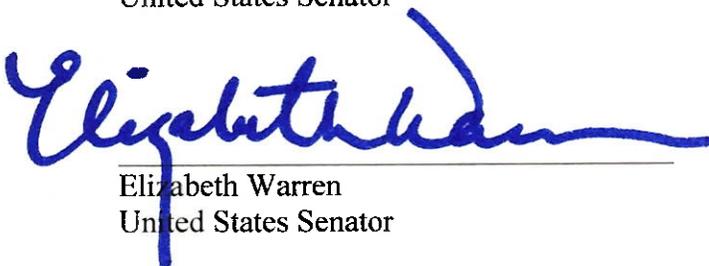
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



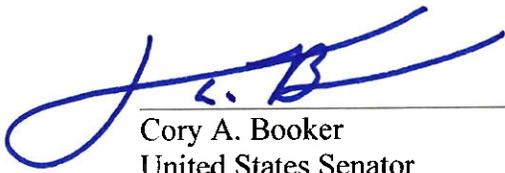
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



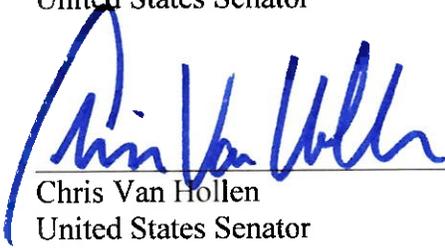
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



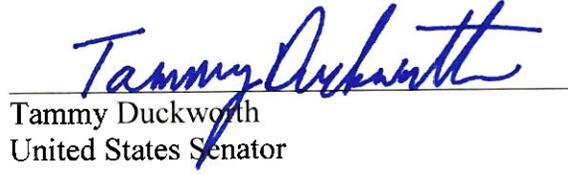
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



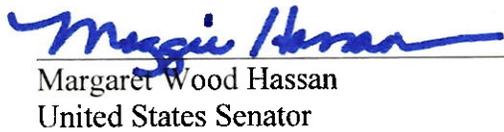
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



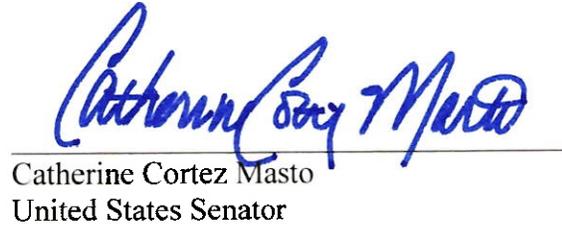
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



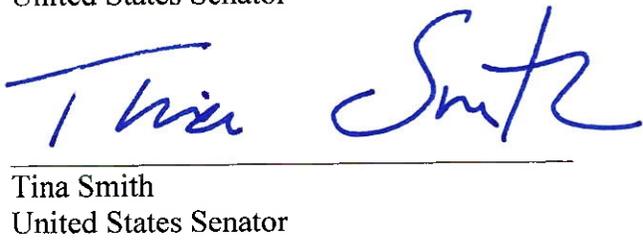
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable John Boozman, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable John Hoeven, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Joni K. Ernst, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp, Senate Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable K. Michael Conaway, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Glenn Thompson, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Frank D. Lucas, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Mike Rogers, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Austin Scott, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Rick Crawford, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Vicky Hartzler, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Rodney Davis, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Ted Yoho, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable David Rouzer, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Roger Marshall, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Jodey Arrington, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Collin C. Peterson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable David Scott, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Jim Costa, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Timothy J. Walz, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Jim McGovern, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Filemon Vela, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Ann Kuster, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Tom O'Halleran, House Agriculture Committee Conferee
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chair, House Education and Workforce Committee Conferee
The Honorable Rick W. Allen, House Education and Workforce Committee Conferee
The Honorable Alma S. Adams, House Education and Workforce Committee Conferee
The Honorable John Shimkus, House Energy and Commerce Committee Conferee
The Honorable Kevin Cramer, House Energy and Commerce Committee Conferee
The Honorable Paul Tonko, House Energy and Commerce Committee Conferee
The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, Chairman, House Financial Services Committee Conferee
The Honorable Sean P. Duffy, House Financial Services Committee Conferee
The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee Conferee
The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee Conferee
The Honorable Steve Chabot, House Foreign Affairs Committee Conferee
The Honorable Eliot Engel, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee Conferee

The Honorable Mark Walker, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Conferee

The Honorable James Comer, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Conferee

The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Conferee

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee Conferee

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, House Natural Resources Committee Conferee

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee Conferee

The Honorable Ralph Lee Abraham, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Conferee

The Honorable Neal P. Dunn, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Conferee

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, House Science, Space and Technology Committee Conferee

The Honorable Jeff Denham, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Conferee

The Honorable Bob Gibbs, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Conferee

The Honorable Cheri Bustos, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Conferee