

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-222, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

As you work with the White House to craft the Build Back Better Agenda, we write to respectfully request your assistance in protecting the \$7.75 billion investment in agricultural climate research, agriculture innovation, and agricultural research infrastructure included in the House Agriculture Committee's portion of the budget reconciliation legislation. This funding is critical to maintaining President Biden's commitment to rebuilding our communities in both a sustainable and equitable manner.

Investing in America's agriculture research and development programs will be essential to addressing the climate crisis. According to a recent report from the Breakthrough Institute, doubling agricultural research and development between 2020 and 2030 would reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by over 100 million tons. By providing our farmers, ranchers, and foresters with the tools they need to improve resiliency and scale climate-smart agriculture, we can ensure our agricultural communities are not only better equipped to adapt to climate-induced production challenges but also given the opportunity to be part of the climate solution. These investments will, in turn, help ensure both the safety and security of our national and global food supply.

The agriculture research provisions included in the House Agriculture Committee's budget reconciliation markup are also critical to ensuring the Build Back Better Agenda is rooted in President Biden's promise to improve equity and access to federal programs. Of the \$3.65 billion included for research facilities, a substantial portion of this funding will be directed toward minority-serving institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, and insular areas. We have also included significant funding for cooperative extension and scholarships through minority-serving institutions. These investments will help ensure socially disadvantaged and beginning producers – many of whom have previously struggled to participate in federal programs – gain access to the tools and knowledge they need to be successful in the twenty-first century.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to significantly fund food and agriculture research, innovation, and agricultural research infrastructure. These investments are crucial for the United States to achieve net zero emissions and address long-standing barriers to entry for socially disadvantaged producers. We are proud to support the funding included in the House Agriculture Committee's reconciliation markup, and we look forward to working with you to ensure these investments are retained in any version of the Build Back Better Act.

Sincerely,



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress

SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

AL LAWSON
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

KATHY MANNING
Member of Congress

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

MARILYN STRICKLAND
Member of Congress

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

ANN McLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress

KAIALI'I KAHELE
Member of Congress

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

JOSH HARDER
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

SANFORD D. BISHOP JR.
Member of Congress