



September 10, 2024

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

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

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

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

**Dear Chair Thompson, Ranking Member Scott, Chair Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:**

On behalf of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, and the undersigned Tribes and intertribal and Native organizations, we write to urge you to commit to working with members of Congress across the aisle to enact the 2024 Farm Bill before the end of the year.

Many Native communities rely on a Farm Bill to address the legacy of persistent barriers to developing and growing Indian Country's agriculture sector. Our Native communities throughout Indian Country face challenges that are unique to lands under Tribal jurisdiction such as credit access and multi-agency approvals and/or coordination for practices and USDA programs regarding Tribal trust lands, including environmental assessments and cultural surveys. We look to your leadership to address these disparities by enhancing Tribal agriculture programs, including efforts to put Tribal producers on a level playing field, make traditional foods more accessible, build regional food economies, expand the use and effectiveness of 638 self-determination and self-governance authorities throughout the Department, add new tools to improve natural resource management, and better incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in crop cultivation, forest management, and other conservation programs, among other improvements.

Additionally, with the ongoing delays in the delivery of foods procured by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), a long-term, permanent solution to this crisis is desperately needed. Tribal FDPIR and CSFP participants who already face high rates of food insecurity





and are located in food deserts have been left with empty shelves and presented with short-term solutions that do not work. We hope that the House and Senate Agriculture Committees will use the 2024 Farm Bill as a way to ensure USDA moves to a regional warehouse model and requires USDA to reimburse Tribes for any funds they have used from either their general fund or other programs, such as the Local Food Purchase Agreement (LFPA), to purchase food. Additionally, the FDPIR and CSFP warehouse crisis is the latest example of why Congress should give Tribes the Pub.L. 93-638 authority to administer FDPIR and CSFP, notwithstanding the erroneously calculated Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score. We know Tribes can administer these programs far more reliably, efficiently, and cost effectively than USDA.

As Congress returns this month, we ask that you commit to reengaging negotiations on the Farm Bill and ensure that efforts to provide Tribes more authority to exercise food sovereignty remains a top priority. We grow concerned that given the number of legislative days left, time will eventually run out and prevent us from making meaningful progress this year. Indian Country is in dire need of oversight and change to ensure USDA is fulfilling its trust and treaty obligations to Tribes, facilitating the required government-to-government relationship the United States has with Tribes, and supporting Tribal producers in the agricultural operations.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support. We look forward to working closely with you on passing a bipartisan Farm Bill this year.

Sincerely,

Cole Miller  
Co-Chair, Native Farm Bill Coalition  
Chairman, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux  
Community

Kari Jo Lawrence  
Co-Chair, Native Farm Bill Coalition  
Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

**Undersigned by members of the Native Farm Bill Coalition**

- Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley





# NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION

- Blackfeet Nation
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Colusa Indian Community
- Comanche Nation
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Fort Belknap Indian Community
- Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Kasigluk Traditional Elders Council
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe in Oklahoma
- Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Native Village of Noatak
- Native Village of Port Lions
- Native Village of White Mountain
- Navajo Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Oneida Nation
- Organized Village of Saxman
- Osage Nation
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point
- Pauma Band of Mission Indians
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Potter Valley Tribe
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Port Gamble S'Kallam Tribe
- Pueblo of Jemez





# NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION

- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Quapaw Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
- Resighini Rancheria
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
- Santo Domingo Pueblo
- Santee Sioux Nation in Nebraska
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Seneca Nation
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- South Fork Band of Temoke Western Shoshone
- Spirit Lake Tribe
- Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
- Suquamish Indian Tribe
- Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
- Village of Venetie
- Walker River Paiute Tribe
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
- White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yakama Nation
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yerington Paiute Tribe
- Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Indian Reservation
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- All Pueblo Council of Governors
- American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Intertribal Agriculture Council
- Intertribal Buffalo Council
- Intertribal Timber Council
- Kawerak, Inc. (20 communities/Native Villages)
- National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
- National Association of FDIPIR Programs (NAFDPIR)
- Native American Fish & Wildlife Society
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)
- United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)
- Alaska Federation of Natives
- Alaska Native Health Board
- Alaska Village Initiatives
- Akiptan, Inc. Community Development Financial Institution
- Bear Cub Consulting
- College of Menominee Nation
- Elderberry Wisdom Farm
- First Nations Development Institute
- Fort Berthold Allottee Land & Mineral Owners Association





# NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION

- Friendship House Association of American Indians
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Hempstead Project Heart
- Ho-Chunk, Inc.
- Indigenous Hemp Farmers Cooperative
- Kamahameha Schools
- (Hoopa) Klamath Trinity Resource Conservation District
- Lakota Funds
- Makoce Agriculture Development, Inc
- Mesa Grande Business Development Corporation
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Tribal RPG
- National Caucus of Native American State Legislators
- National Indian Education Association
- National Indian Health Board
- Native American Community Development Corporation
- Native American Contractors Association
- Native American Financial Officers Association
- Nixyáawii Community Financial Services
- Northern Shores Community Development, Inc.
- Numu Allottee Association
- Oklahoma Tribal Engagement Partners (OKTEP)
- Omaha Nation Far
- Osni Ponca, LLC
- Salish Kootenai Housing Authority
- Sixth World Solutions
- South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition
- Tatanka Funds
- Toohnii Binaneest'ą' Altaas'éeí Alliance (ToohBAA)
- Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA)
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer (D-NY)

The Honorable Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

The Honorable Mike Johnson (R-LA)

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)

