

August 4, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader United States House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the more than 200,000 family farm and ranch families of the National Farmers Union (NFU), I write in strong support of the \$40 billion investment in agriculture, forestry, and rural communities in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This funding is critical for tackling the climate crisis, lowering costs for families, and creating good-paying jobs in rural communities.

The Inflation Reduction Act invests more than \$20 billion in voluntary, incentive-based agriculture conservation programs, which enable farmers and ranchers to adopt practices that build soil health, sequester carbon in the soil, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs are critically underfunded, preventing many interested farmers from participating each year. With additional support for these programs, farmers and ranchers can expand adoption of climate-smart practices and build more resilient operations.

This legislation also recognizes that home-grown renewable fuels reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, enhance our nation's energy independence and security, and lowers costs for consumers at the pump. The \$500 million for biofuels infrastructure and the new tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel will help the U.S. meet its climate goals by expanding the volume of low-carbon biofuels available across the transportation sector. Multiple other welcome energy provisions in the bill will help farmers, cooperatives, and rural communities invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements that are good for the climate and the economy.

NFU's grassroots, member-driven policy supports a progressive tax code, and we are pleased that proposed tax changes in the bill will require that some of America's largest companies are paying their fair share. NFU also appreciates the exclusion of new tax liabilities that could lead to the premature sale of family farms and ranches and contribute to a worrying trend toward greater corporate control of our food system.

We urge Congress to move swiftly to pass the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Sincerely,

**Rob Larew** 

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President

cc:

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, and the Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

The Honorable David Scott, Chairman, and the Honorable Glenn Thompson, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture