

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2025

Ther Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker Mike Johnson,

As Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, we write to you today because we want to pass a strong bipartisan Farm Bill this year, and we are deeply concerned that the cuts our Committee has been called to make in the budget resolution (H.Con.Res.14) put that goal in jeopardy. Cuts of this magnitude will have severe consequences for millions of hard-working Americans in-need and ramifications that will be felt across the food supply chain and farm country.

The budget reconciliation instructions to the House Agriculture Committee require a minimum of \$230 billion in cuts. It will be impossible to achieve this target without going after SNAP, our nation's most efficient and effective anti-poverty tool and a critical part of the Farm Bill. At a time when people across the country are struggling with the high cost of groceries, this program helps more than 42 million Americans each month keep food on the table by providing a modest but meaningful \$6 per person per day.¹ Cuts of this enormity would increase food costs for the typical family of four participating in the program by \$175 per month, or \$2,100 per year.² The fallout would be felt by nearly 17 million children, over 7 million seniors, and 1.2 million veterans that depend on SNAP.³

Cutting SNAP by \$230 billion means taking away \$23 billion in income from farmers and ranchers, and adding more uncertainty to an already reeling food supply chain. This will have significant negative impacts on the farmers who grow the food, manufacturers that package it, truckers who distribute it, and stores and small businesses in our communities that sell it. SNAP dollars stimulate the economy; every \$1.00 in SNAP benefits generates an additional \$1.50 in economic activity.⁴ In 2020 alone, SNAP created nearly 45,000 new jobs in supporting industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and municipal services. It also supported 200,000 grocery industry jobs with wages totaling more than \$6.7 billion.⁵ SNAP is particularly impactful in rural communities and small towns, where people participate at higher rates than urban areas, and where SNAP dollars provide even higher returns to the local economy.⁶

On top of these immediate impacts, decimating SNAP in reconciliation would break apart the broad coalition that is critical to passing a bipartisan Farm Bill in 2025 which would put in jeopardy many other programs that our Committee is responsible for and that farm country relies on, such as crop insurance and conservation programs. We have seen again and again that Farm Bills cannot succeed without significant support from both sides of the aisle, and making detrimental cuts of this degree in a separate package will jeopardize that. We as Democratic members of this Committee want to pass a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that does good for all Americans and everyone up and down the food supply chain before the September 30, 2025 expiration date. We hope you will allow us to engage in good faith negotiations on the Farm Bill and we respectfully request you reconsider these harmful cuts.

¹ USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), *SNAP: Number of Persons Participating (data as of February 14, 2025)*, accessed March 2025; USDA FNS, *SNAP Participation and Costs (Data as of February 14, 2025)*, accessed March 2025. Associated Press, "US Inflation got worse with rising prices on groceries and gasoline," February 2025.

² Katie Bergh, "Millions of Low-Income Households Would Lose Food Aid Under Proposed House Republican SNAP Cuts," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 2025

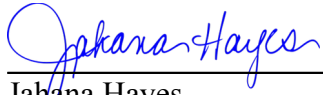
³ USDA FNS, *Characteristics of SNAP Households - FY 22*, June 2024; USDA Economic Research Service, "Children accounted for about 40 percent of SNAP participants in fiscal year 2022," July 2024; Lauren Hall, "SNAP Helps 1.2 Million Low-Income Veterans, Including Thousands in Every State," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, November 2021.

⁴ USDA Economic Research Service, *Quantifying the Impact of SNAP benefits on the US Economy and Jobs*, July 2019.

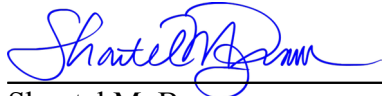
⁵ The National Grocers Association, "Economic Impact Study Sales Impact Analysis and SNAP Impact Study," June 2021.

⁶ USDA Economic Research Service, *USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Contributed to Rural Economic Output, Jobs Following the Great Recession*, December 7, 2021; Schanzenbach, Diane Whitmore, "SNAP Supports Rural Families," American Economic Institute, April 2022; "Rural Hunger in America: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," Food Research & Action Center, 2018.

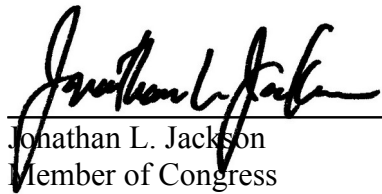
Sincerely,



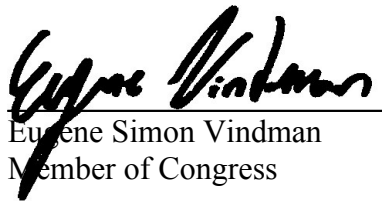
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Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
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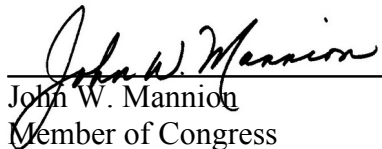
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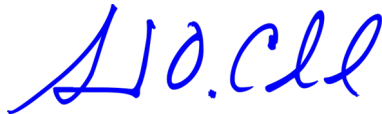
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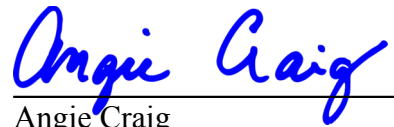
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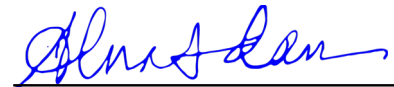
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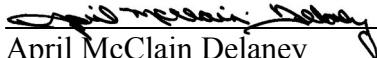
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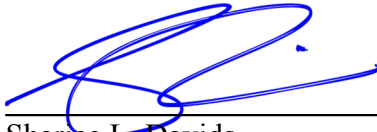
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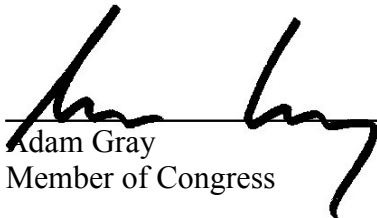

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Member of Congress

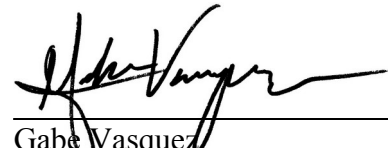

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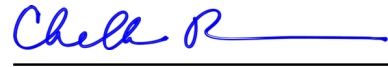

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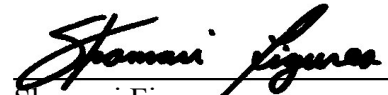

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Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

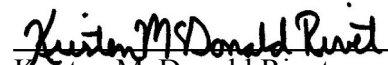

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CC: Chairman Glenn Thompson, House Committee on Agriculture