January 9, 2018

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow and Ranking Member Peterson:

The Campaign for Renewed Rural Development (CRRD) is a coalition of national policy advocacy organizations representing a broad spectrum of interests focused on rural issues. The CRRD unites around the need for a robust Rural Development Title within the farm bill that provides critical investments to some of our nation’s most underserved communities and enhances rural America’s competitiveness in a global marketplace.

As Congress begins drafting the new farm bill, we ask for your continued support for rural communities through a robust Rural Development Title that promotes economic growth and stability by investing in our nation’s rural infrastructure, incentivizing regional collaboration and ensuring the success of our next generation of farmers.

Rural Development programs are critical for rural communities to provide basic services including protecting public health, building affordable housing, workforce training, updating and expanding critical infrastructure and broadband service, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Today, rural communities across the country are struggling with increasing health disparities, the opioid epidemic, a digital divide and recovering economically from the Great Recession. Renewed investment – including mandatory funding – in Rural Development programs is needed now more than ever.

Additionally, the next farm bill should underscore the growing interdependence of rural and urban communities, and the common stake each has in ensuring that the remarkable assets of rural America are fully optimized.

We appreciate your continued leadership and support and stand ready to leverage the shared goals of the undersigned organizations to pass a flexible and fully funded Rural Development Title in the next farm bill.

Sincerely,

Center for Rural Affairs
Fahe
Fair Food Network
Farm Credit Council
Housing Assistance Council
Independent Community Bankers of America
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Farmers Union
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National League of Cities
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association
Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc.
Rural Community College Alliance