



January 9, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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