

February 20, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to Anti-environmental Provisions within the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026

We the 113 undersigned organizations write to express our opposition to anti-environment and anti-public health sections of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 that exacerbate pollution, hamstring the protection of endangered wildlife, and rollback protections for human health and the environment. As written, the House Farm Bill will shield chemical companies from accountability, erode states rights, delay protections for endangered species, increase deforestation, and result in the unchecked discharge of dangerous pesticides and chemicals into the environment.

Specifically, we express our opposition to the following provisions that threaten human health, the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to keep foods free of dangerous chemicals, and that expose the environment to even greater toxic pesticides:

- **Section 10201(3):** Permanently excludes dozens of hazardous chemicals used in industrial agriculture from human health and environmental safety reviews that are currently required under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.
- **Section 10202:** Weakens and delays efforts to protect children, farmworkers, public health, from dangerous pesticides by giving unprecedented authority to the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy to review and potentially veto any environmental or human health safeguards determined to be necessary by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Section 10203(3):** Undermines the integrity of the Endangered Species Act in an unprecedented manner by delaying protections for endangered species against dangerous pesticides by giving an internal interagency workgroup a potential de-facto veto on any efforts to protect endangered species from pesticides, which could delay and weaken critical conservation measures.

- **Section 10204:** Delays the review of hundreds of pesticides for harms to human health, endangered wildlife, and endocrine disruption until 2031, leaving potentially dangerous pesticides on the market and in widespread use without any updated protective measures.
- **Section 10205:** Immunizes pesticide companies from their duty to warn the public about dangerous chemicals in their pesticide formulations, potentially eliminating access to the federal courts for thousands of individuals with cancer, Parkinson’s disease, and other health issues scientifically linked to pesticide exposure.
- **Section 10206:** Eliminates the six-decade old authority of state and local governments to implement additional local and state-focused restrictions on the use of dangerous pesticides to protect children, farmworkers, pollinators, public health, and the environment.
- **Section 10207:** Erases important, long-standing safeguards to protect people and wildlife from pesticide pollution discharged directly into waterways through the Clean Water Act Pesticide General Permit (“PGP”), though the broad language would exempt pesticide approvals from the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and other bedrock environmental laws.
- **Section 10212:** Undermines protections for water quality, aquatic wildlife, and human health from aerial discharge of toxic fire retardants under the Clean Water Act.
- **Section 12006:** Strips state and local governments of their ability to pass and enforce agricultural standards, overturning hundreds of state laws that are critical to ensuring food safety, supporting family farmers and ranchers, protecting the environment, and implementing more humane agricultural practices.
- **Section 12405:** Weakens enforcement of illegal plant imports under the Lacey Act by forcing agencies to reveal investigative details that importers can use to contest and delay enforcement

In addition, the 2026 legislation would severely erode the stewardship and management of Forest Service lands, expanding corporate control and corruption by special interests. Specifically, we oppose the following provisions within the legislation:

- **Section 8401:** Mandates a new categorical exclusion under NEPA for hazard tree management within 300 feet of any National Forest road, trail, or developed site which discounts the biological value of decaying trees as important habitats for wildlife.
- **Sections 8402, 8403, and 8404:** Expands three existing Forest Service categorical exclusions under NEPA from 3,000 acres to 10,000 to complete logging projects for insect damage, hazardous fuel reduction and fuel breaks without any environmental review. These categorical exclusions are unnecessary, eliminate public comment on large logging projects and risks significant harm to wildlife habitat.

- **Section 8405:** Expands two existing Forest Service categorical exclusions under NEPA in greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat to 4,500 acres for a forest ecosystem and 7,500 acres for a rangeland ecosystem.
- **Section 8406:** Mandates a new categorical exclusion under NEPA for any “vegetation management” such as logging or pesticide use within a utility line right-of-way and bypasses protections under the Endangered Species Act for these actions.
- **Section 8407:** Requires the Forest Service to maximize logging on National Forests and establishes a new categorical exclusion for “reducing fuels” which may include clear cutting on up to 10,000 acres (including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning) if done in consultation with industry partners.
- **Section 8408:** Mandates wildfire suppression on National Forest lands that are in the top 10 percent of wildfire exposure and have a severe or worse drought rating by responding within 24 hours of detection, thus prohibiting consideration of managed wildfire for beneficial use.
- **Section 8411:** Weakens the Endangered Species Act by exempting the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management from consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on their land management plans when (1) critical habitat is newly designated or a species within such forests is newly listed as threatened or endangered, and (2) if new information such as the impacts of climate change show that threatened and endangered species are being harmed in unanticipated ways by Forest Service activities.
- **Section 8412:** Authorizes the use of Good Neighbor Authority for the construction of new permanent roads on federal public lands.
- **Section 8416:** Creates new non-competitive, no-appraisal-required authority for timber sales on National Forests when lands are deemed at “extreme risk” of wildfire, storms, or drought.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 unfortunately contains these and numerous other attempts to put the interests of industry special interests and polluters above the health and well-being of people and the environment. We encourage you to **vote NO** on this legislation because of these cynical attacks on the environment as well as oppose any additional amendments that seek to further exacerbate harm to public health or the environment.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Justice Project
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Bird Conservancy
 Amigos Bravos
 Attorneys for Animals

Beyond Pesticides
Beyond Toxics
Bozeman Birders
Californians for Pesticide Reform
CalWild
Campaign for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture
Carnivore Coexistence Lab
Cascade Forest Conservancy
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Food Safety
Clean Cape Fear
Clean Water Action
Clean Wisconsin
Climate Justice Alliance
Climate Land Leaders
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Compassion in World Farming
Creation Justice Ministries
DarkSky
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Durham Wildlife Stewards
Elders Coalition for Climate Action
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Environmental Working Group
ESA Grassroots
Farm Aid
Farmworker Association of Florida
Food & Water Watch
FOUR PAWS USA
Friends Of Blackwater, Inc.
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, Prince George's County MD
Friends of the Earth
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Green State Solutions
GreenLatinos
Heartwood
Indiana Forest Alliance
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Izaak Walton League Rapid City SD Chapter
Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture
Jefferson County Farmers & Neighbors, Inc.

John Muir Project
Kansas Rural Center
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Large Carnivore Fund
Los Padres ForestWatch
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maldonado
Maryland Pesticide Education Network
Massachusetts Pollinator Network
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Michiganders for a Just Farming System
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Natural Resource Defense Council
Native Organizers Alliance
NOFA-VT
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey - NOFA NJ
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
Orleans Audubon Society
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People & Pollinators Action Network
Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network
Presbyterians for Earth Care
Project Eleven Hundred
Re:wild Your Campus
Resource Renewal Institute
RiSE4EJ
Safe Ag Safe Schools
Sage Steppe Wild
Sea Turtle Conservancy
Shining Horizons Land Management, LLC
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Slow Food USA
South Sound Bird Alliance
Spokane Audubon Society
Sprout
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders
Sustainable Sandhills
Team Wolf
Toxic Free NC
Truckin' Movers Corporation

United We Eat
Urban Tilth
Virginia Assoc. for Biological Farming
Waterkeeper Alliance
Web of Life Products
Western Watersheds Project
Western Wildlife Outreach
Wild Cumberland
Wild Farm Alliance
WildEarth Guardians
Wildlife for All
Wolf and Wildlife Advocates
Wolf Hollow
Wyoming Untrapped
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation