



Farm Bill advocacy update:

Congress doesn't know much about our international ask, so that's a good one to prioritize. At our June Advocacy Summit, we're also emphasizing our ask around SNAP funding, expanding GusNIP, justice for Black farmers, and addressing food waste and food recovery.

Sen. Patty Murray

2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174

Sen. Maria Cantwell

915 Second Avenue, Suite 3206
Seattle, WA 98174

Rep. Pramila Jayapal

2033 6th Ave., Suite 1011
Seattle, WA 98121

Rep. Adam Smith

101 Evergreen Building
15 S. Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057



SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS – Be sure to include your name & address on your handwritten letter

Dear Senator/Representative _____: Date _____
My name is _____, and I'm writing to you about the Farm Bill because _____ (*ie. your faith / evidence of hunger you see in CA / why hunger concerns you / the Farm Bill affects almost all Americans*).
Please fund SNAP (food stamps) generously and make it more nutritious through the GusNIP program for farmers markets and more accessible to low-income college students, indigenous people, and formerly incarcerated people. Please also reduce food waste, strengthen food recovery programs, and invest in programs and research that help farmers adapt to the effects of climate change. Finally, please also make it easier for our country to buy and distribute healthy, local food overseas near areas of famine and food crisis rather than slowly ship U.S. food overseas. Thank you.

SAMPLE OUTLINE FOR YOUR LETTER TO CONGRESS

Date _____

Dear Senator / Representative:

- 1 - *Introduce yourself by name and church.*
- 2 - *Share why you're writing (ie. evidence of hunger you see in CO / why hunger concerns you).*
- 3 - *Tell Congress exactly what you want it to do.*

Make SNAP (food stamps) more nutritious and accessible to vulnerable people
Protect and restore the Earth
Address racial inequity in our food and farming system
Equip the U.S. to respond better to famines and food crises overseas.

To email Congress using Bread's material online, scan this QR code, fill in your contact info, and type in your PERSONALIZED message at the front of Bread's email message:



Talking Points on the 2023 Farm Bill

On SNAP

1. SNAP (food stamps) is the first line of defense against hunger in the U.S., so **protect & increase SNAP funding**. *[Point out that hunger didn't rise significantly in the U.S. during the pandemic because SNAP, school meals, the Child Tax Credit, and federal nutrition programs expanded to address this gap.]*
2. Hungry people need and deserve options for healthy fruit and vegetables, & the GusNIP program allows SNAP beneficiaries to shop at farmers markets. Please **strengthen GusNIP in the Farm Bill** so that food insecure people throughout the nation can benefit. *[GusNIP stands for Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.]*

On SNAP and Racial Equity

1. In some states, low-income college students (many of whom identify as BIPOC) are forced to meet unnecessary work requirements to qualify for SNAP. College students should be studying, not working. **Please eliminate work requirements.**
2. In some states, formerly incarcerated people are banned from SNAP even though they've already paid their debt to society. Considering that BIPOC are over-represented in prison, this policy is racist and unjust and raises the risk of recidivism in crime. Please **eliminate this SNAP ban.**
3. In some regions, Native American communities aren't allowed to administer SNAP on reservations, which disrespects their sovereignty and makes it more difficult to access SNAP. Please **make SNAP accessible to all.**

On Racial Equity, esp. Involving Farmers of Color

Recognizing that racism has driven many farmers of color out of agriculture, shape the Farm Bill to 1) **create an equity commission to examine discrimination & end systemic disparity**; 2) **improve access to farmland, credit, markets, and technical assistance to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers**; 3) **fund HBCU to strengthen Agriculture programs**; and 4) **provide young Black farmers with training.**

On Sustainability

1. Up to 40% of food is wasted, and food waste in landfills is creating methane gas and worsening climate change. Please **shape the Farm Bill to reduce food waste & support food recovery programs.**
2. The climate crisis threatens food security. It's important that our nation **fund programs U.S. farmers need to adapt to climate change as well as invest in research to build resilience to climate change.**
3. There's an excess of methane, rising CO2 emissions, and too many chemicals in the soil, water, and air. Consequently, cropland soil is eroding 10 times faster than it is replenished, and U.S. crops are diminishing in nutritional value, especially in zinc and iron. **Incentivize growing more nutritious food.**

On U.S. Food Aid in the Farm Bill – this is an area where Democrats especially need a nudge!

1. Please **increase nutritional quality of all international food aid programs.**
2. **Prioritize buying culturally-appropriate food locally near crisis points rather than slowly shipping food overseas.** For example, if there's a food crisis in Ethiopia, we can buy food in neighboring Uganda & distribute it. Buying food overseas rather than shipping it is a) up to 14 weeks faster, b) much cheaper (not spending 50% of the budget on shipping), c) and stimulates rather than wipes out local producers in the developing world. U.S. Food Aid should reduce hunger overseas, not cause economic hardship.