Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Our nation's food and farm policies, as embodied in the Farm Bill, impact people and communities from rural America to developing countries. As you consider the 2023 Farm Bill, I urge you to prioritize poor and hungry people in the U.S. and abroad, strengthen rural communities, and promote sustainable stewardship of the land.

Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (CSFP) help lift millions of people out of poverty. More than 9 million children faced hunger in 2021. That's 1 in 8 kids that live at risk for hunger.1 In addition, in 2020, the number of undernourished people in the world was between 720 and 811 million.2 The Farm Bill must protect and strengthen international aid programs as well.

Rural communities and small towns are the backbones of social and economic life in America. The Farm Bill must focus on supporting rural development in Ohio to support rural business and community development. Rural development focuses on a wide range of policy issues, including equity in capital development in rural areas, regional economic planning and development, providing essential community facilities, water and wastewater infrastructure needs, value-added agricultural development, and broadband development.3 The bill must also offer practical support for those who grow our food, ensure fairness to family farmers and ranchers, and promote programs focusing on good stewardship. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQLP), the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) are a few of the critical programs that protect ecological health for the benefit of food production.

Thank you for all you can do to prioritize our nation's safety net for the poor, combat hunger worldwide, support our farmers and rural communities, and protect our environment.

Sincerely,

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