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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6001

(202) 225-2171

August 7, 2023

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing today to express our concerns about continued comments from your leadership team that could jeopardize the consideration and passage of a bipartisan farm bill in the House.

You have seen what happens when leadership gets involved in dictating the details of the farm bill, particularly when the issue involved is SNAP, the safety net for America's working poor and elderly.

The failures of the 2014 and 2018 House versions of the farm bill their first time up for consideration caused a great deal of anxiety in rural America. That should be enough of a reminder to you that playing partisan SNAP politics does nothing to address the needs of our farm and ranch families who depend on the other components of the farm bill, whether it's the farm safety net, conservation, trade or other titles.

We all asked to be on the House Agriculture Committee because we value its bipartisan nature, which has traditionally been the key to the Committee's success in getting farm bills done. And we have been heartened by Chairman Thompson's comments to date about the bill being bipartisan and not going after SNAP.

As we work on the 2023 Farm Bill, we would ask that you continue to honor that tradition by letting the Committee work its will, and then respect the product that we hope comes out of our process later this Fall.

The continued threat of making additional changes to SNAP eligibility or benefits is not helpful and even undermines Chairman Thompson as he works with his Democratic and Republican membership to bring a bipartisan farm bill out of the Agriculture Committee.

Our nation's hungry and those who grow their food deserve a bipartisan farm bill to address their needs.

Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



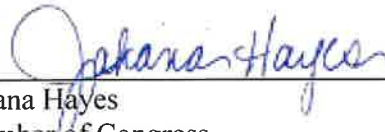
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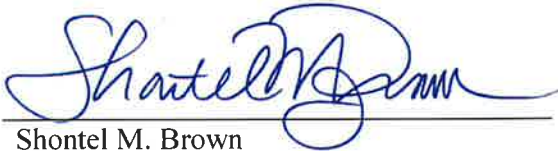
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Jahana Hayes
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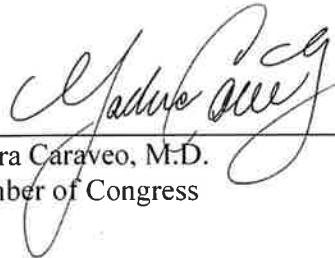
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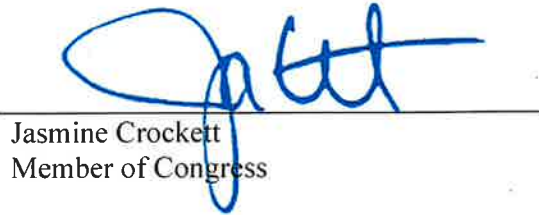


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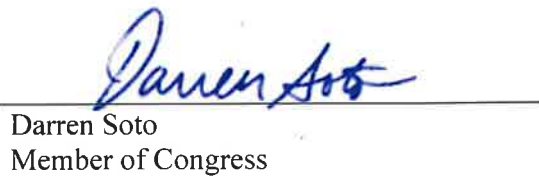
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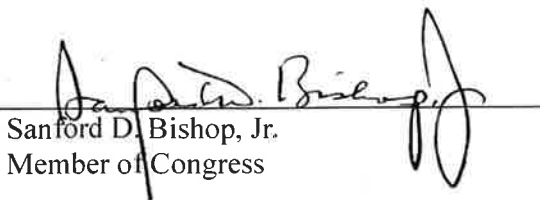

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