



August 7, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry  
United States Senate

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the members of the National Restaurant Association, we write regarding the 2023 Farm Bill. As negotiations on this legislation are in full swing, we would like to reiterate our support for the following policy priorities to help stabilize food prices and enhance supply chain resiliency.

As you know, the cost of food has increased significantly due to inflation and supply chain challenges. This puts pressure on the entire supply chain, including restaurants and consumers. While wholesale prices for some food commodities have started to lower recently, others have continued to trend higher. Until wholesale prices begin to trend lower across all commodities, food costs and supply chain challenges continue to be a headwind for restaurants.

Therefore, we encourage you to include the following priorities in the farm bill to ensure restaurants and farmers can continue to feed our nation.

First, as food insecurity continues, we encourage you to improve the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). By increasing awareness of this program and creating guidance for state participation, more homeless, elderly, and disabled people will have the ability purchase meals from restaurants.

Additionally, we encourage you to include the following priorities to help our nation's farmers and ranchers.

- Provide a safety net for farmers, including specialty crop programs
- Expand preparedness programs for animal disease threats such as avian flu
- Ensure that farmers have the necessary resources to invest in regenerative agriculture/climate smart tools and support voluntary conservation programs

Chairwoman Stabenow  
Ranking Member Boozman  
Chairman Thompson  
Ranking Member Scott  
August 7, 2023  
Page Two

- Support new and young farmers by ensuring they have affordable access to land and access to credits and loans
- Expand authorizations and funding for coffee agricultural research and development to address emerging pests and diseases

Finally, we encourage you to prioritize efforts to feed hungry families and reduce food waste by:

- Strengthening the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act which protects restaurants from liability when they donate food
- Giving authority of the law to USDA and mandating they publish regulations interpreting the Act
- Providing funding support for food waste processing/recovery infrastructure and new food waste technologies
- Establishing incentives for businesses to adopt food waste reduction technologies

A strong and healthy agriculture sector is critical to the restaurant industry's ability to provide safe and affordable food. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Sean Kennedy  
Executive Vice President for Public Affairs