

# STATE OF KANSAS



CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH  
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3232  
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

## GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman, Senate Agriculture Committee  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Scott  
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable G.T. Thompson  
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Senator Boozman, Chairman Scott, and Representative Thompson:

For 90 years, the Farm Bill has been the single most influential piece of legislation for our country's agricultural community. In fact, the bill touches every American, shaping everything from crop insurance to affordable food access. Yet there's no state more invested in the bill than Kansas. Agriculture is our biggest job creator and revenue driver, and with our top-ranking crop and livestock sectors, it's no exaggeration to say that our farmers and ranchers feed – and fuel -- the world.

That's why it's essential that, as Congress considers what should be in the upcoming Farm Bill, it prioritize the needs of Kansans.

### **Support Rural Communities.**

Every five years, the Farm Bill provides an opportunity to make necessary and valuable investments in America's heartland. This upcoming bill should continue to fund programs that foster economic growth, incentivize affordable housing construction, and expand broadband development in rural areas, but it should do so in a way that gives special focus to the next generation.

More of our farmers are aging into retirement, yet they aren't being replaced because young people either don't see a future at home or do not have access to the capital and other resources necessary to continue their family's legacy. The next Farm Bill should knock down barriers for young people and small farms in the agriculture industry so we can increase regional food sources – which would have the added benefits of addressing food deserts and making our supply chain more competitive and sustainable. The Bill should also consider the needs of our children by ensuring they have the transportation and bussing options they need to access healthy food year-round, including during the summer.

## **Balance Sustainability with Affordability.**

It's no secret that we must address the effects of extreme weather and long-term climate conditions on agriculture. In recent years, prolonged drought, severe floods, wildfires, and extreme temperatures have hurt livestock production, reduced yields, and have even caused total losses of our farmers' and ranchers' crops and livestock.

But the truth is, we can't afford solutions that will cause the cost of food to skyrocket. Instead of placing burdensome regulations on farmers and ranchers with already thin margins, the next Farm Bill should invest in voluntary conservation programs, drought-resistant crops like sorghum and cotton, robust crop insurance, and biological and technological innovation that will drive down the cost of regenerative agriculture in the long run. In Kansas, we've seen that by helping our farmers and ranchers access precision agriculture equipment and the broadband connectivity needed to deploy it, they have maintained or even increased yields with less water. We should replicate that success across the nation.

As governor of the best state for agriculture production and food manufacturing in the country, I know solutions to these issues are possible. As you work on developing a Farm Bill for the next five years, know that I am here to assist you in developing solutions that ensure U.S. and Kansas agriculture producers can continue to feed the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Laura" is written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kelly".

Governor Laura Kelly