



July 15, 2022

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

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

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

The Honorable G.T. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairwomen Stabenow, Chairman Scott and Ranking Members Boozman and Thompson:

The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance is a coalition of more than 200 organizations representing the entirety of the fruit, vegetable, tree nut, and horticulture industries in the United States. The Alliance is developing a comprehensive set of recommendations to Congress for the 2023 Farm Bill, which we anticipate transmitting to you this fall. We are writing to you today, however, to address an important issue in advance of those broader recommendations.

Proposals are being discussed that would expand the definition of specialty crop beyond its commonly understood meaning. There are few issues more impactful to our sector of the ag economy than what it means to *be* a specialty crop. That definition determines eligibility to participate in Farm Bill programs established by Congress exclusively for specialty crops. Accordingly, the Steering Committee of the Alliance is providing you with the enclosed policy statement announcing our position on the definition of specialty crops.

We look forward to working with you as you develop the 2023 Farm Bill. Please do let us know if you have any questions or would like more information on the Alliance's position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kam Quarles
Co-Chair, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
CEO, National Potato Council

Dave Puglia
Co-Chair, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
President & CEO, Western Growers

Mike Joyner
Co-Chair, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
President, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

Robert L. Guenther
Secretariat, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
Chief Public Policy Officer, International Fresh
Produce Association