



January 30, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the US specialty crop organizations represented by the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, we would like to submit our recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill. As you know, the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA) is a broad coalition of specialty crop organizations representing U.S. growers and shippers who have been working to forge mutual objectives for the Farm Bill to assure a common platform across regions, commodities, and other interests.

Over the past year, the SCFBA has been meeting to develop the attached set of recommendations we believe are critical to enhancing the competitiveness of our members. This includes over 60 meetings by 12 working groups representing 41 organizations from the SCFBA. These policy recommendations represent the most comprehensive set of ideas to date from our coalition, including 109 specific recommendations covering 8 Farm Bill titles. These recommendations prioritize a set of core principles that drove our work, including:

- Expanding access and availability to safe, wholesome, healthy, and affordable foods, as well as trees, flowers, and plants, will encourage lifelong healthy eating habits, mental and physical well-being, and help address national priorities such as obesity, heart disease, and food and nutrition insecurity.
- In recognition of its significance to American agriculture, the American food supply, and the communities it supports across the United States, a proportional share of farm bill resources and mandatory spending should be allocated to specialty crop priorities.
- Establishing a competitive playing field for American specialty crop producers includes assisting American producers with unfair foreign competition, promoting American specialty crops in foreign markets, and eliminating trade barriers that discriminate against American specialty crop exports.

- A sustained federal investment into research and innovation must be of a meaningful scale to catalyze opportunities for the industry, alleviate existing challenges, and propel the U.S. specialty crop industry to a new level of global competitiveness.
- Recognizing the diverse nature and unique challenges involved in specialty crop production enhances the ability of specialty crop producers to participate fully in all USDA conservation programs as well as any initiatives to address global climate change.

We look forward to working with you and members of the Agriculture Committees as you move forward to developing the Farm Bill.

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