

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
521 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable GT Thompson  
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
400 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member, House Committee on  
Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chair Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Chair Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The undersigned organizations represent an array of bird conservation stakeholders from across the nation. We write to encourage you to pass a Farm Bill as quickly as possible.

Millions of Americans rely on the farm bill for the many benefits it provides, including voluntary conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. The bill also provides sustainable solutions for clean air and water, a producer safety net, facilitates international trade; fosters local jobs and robust economies.

We are very concerned because the Farm Bill impacts birds, like the Northern Bobwhite and the Western Meadowlark. The resilience of bird populations is a good indicator of the health of the land. Owing to the fact that the United States has lost 3 billion birds in the last 50 years—about ¼ of the total number of birds—the land is telling us a story of serious decline. Birds, like the Lesser Prairie-chicken and the Sandhill Crane are echoing that story.

Of particular importance are ensuring robust technical assistance for producers and reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program. Conservation technical assistance (TA) is both the backbone and foundation of NRCS. Conservation is delivered in concentric rings around conservation practitioners and its effectiveness declines with distance. Birds live everywhere farmers and ranchers live. That's why county offices are

vital; please do all that you can to keep them open and lively. Without adequate TA, we will waste a lot of funds by placing too much emphasis on getting contracts approved and too little on conservation outcomes, like managing wetland habitat for waterfowl.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is perhaps the most impactful conservation program on private lands. It has been shown to be vital for birds and other wildlife populations, which in turn are deeply integrated into the rural lifestyle and economy. Please ensure that it is reauthorized quickly.

The program is currently limited to 27 million acres and it needs to be expanded to meet demand and need. The advent of the grassland element of CRP has shifted acres into some western grassland areas. This has resulted in significant program savings that should be reinvested in areas of the country that are seeing declining enrollments. The geographic shift threatens water conservation gains that have been made in the eastern corn belt, for instance.

The CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act would improve support for grazing infrastructure, increase flexibility for grazing, and increase the annual payment cap to keep up with inflation. Please include this legislation in the Farm Bill. Proper grazing is key to sustainable production and the many benefits that accrue from conservation, like healthy Burrowing Owl populations and recovery of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

Strengthen the role of Grasslands CRP in keeping grasslands intact by providing longer contract options, improving prioritization to core and vulnerable enrollments, rewarding applications that offer stronger conservation benefits—like grazing recovery periods—and improving cost share rates. Increasing producer support for voluntary moderation of grazing pressure will help struggling grassland bird populations, like the Long-billed Curlew.

We also support including the Farmer to Farmer Education Act of 2025 in the Farm Bill. It clarifies ways CTA authority can be used to fund farmer mentors and related activities. Farmers and ranchers learn best from one another, so fostering networks that advance conservation and production principals capitalizes on a time-tested method.

The Farm Bill is vital to all Americans. We respectfully and strongly urge you to craft a bipartisan farm bill that can pass your respective chambers, be successfully conferenced, and enacted in this calendar year. We have full confidence that under your leadership and with a bipartisan commitment to the American people, you will enact a farm bill that continues to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow for people, the land, and birds.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy  
International Crane Foundation  
The Wildlife Society  
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
Conservation Biology Institute

Ecological Society of America  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Point Blue Conservation Science  
Alliance for International Reforestation  
Manomet Conservation Sciences

North American Climate, Conservation  
and Environment  
Earth Neighborhood Productions  
Wildlife Restoration Partnerships  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Rachel Carson Council  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Road to Recovery  
Save Animals Facing Extinction  
Society for Conservation Biology North  
America  
The Safina Center  
The Urban Wildlands Group  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Words for Birds  
Yellowbilled Tours  
Environmental Protection Information  
Center  
Missouri River Bird Observatory  
Northern Prairies Land Trust  
Anne Arundel Bird Club  
Arkansas Audubon Society  
Birds Georgia  
Blue Ridge Wildlife Center  
California Waterfowl Association  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Delaware Audubon  
Iowa Wildlife Federation  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and  
Fisheries  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Maryland Native Plant Society  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
New York State Ornithological  
Association  
North Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Save Our Allegheny Ridges  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Sierra Club-Georgia  
Tennessee Ornithological Society  
The Connecticut Audubon Society

Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology  
Amos Butler Audubon  
Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society  
Bird Safe Nashville  
Blue Mountain Audubon Society  
Boulder County Audubon Society  
Bozeman Birders  
Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey  
Hollow  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Canton Audubon Society  
Central Lakes College, Natural  
Resources Program  
Chicago Ornithological Society  
Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance  
Delaware Valley Ornithological Club  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Dogwood Alliance  
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Eden Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Endangered Habitats League  
Gallatin Wildlife Association  
Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
Golden Gate Bird Alliance  
Grand Valley Audubon Society  
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association  
Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Mid-Michigan Bird Observatory  
Moab Bird Club  
New Hope Bird Alliance  
Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society  
North Central Washington Audubon  
Society  
Oakland Bird Alliance  
Pacifica Shorebird Alliance  
Palomar Audubon Society  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Presque Isle Audubon

Rainier Audubon Society  
Redwood Region Audubon Society  
Roaring Fork Audubon  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Salem Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Diego Bird Alliance  
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society  
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance  
Santa Cruz Bird Club

Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
Southern Maryland Audubon Society  
Spokane Audubon Society  
Sycamore Audubon Society  
Tree Fredericksburg  
WildCare of Western New York  
Women in Conservation at Indiana  
University