

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 22, 2026

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

As U.S. Senators serving on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, we appreciate your collaboration as we work towards a bipartisan Farm Bill.

While providing states with relief for the SNAP cost-shift remains a top priority, we simultaneously remain committed to ensuring the success of specialty crop growers in our states and throughout the nation. We are grateful for several provisions already included in the Agricultural Act of 2026 released on June 23, 2026, and request that any final Farm Bill address the following policies as well:

- Add language to section 1304 (Specialty crop emergency assistance framework) that *requires* USDA to use the established framework. Such language would ensure that economic assistance is provided to producers easily and expeditiously.
- Increase funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). Additional funding for these programs would ensure that children and low-income families have access to healthy fruits and vegetables.
- Increase flexibility and creativity for specialty crops in 508(h) and other crop insurance development authorities. These flexibilities would ensure that specialty crop growers, who largely operate without insurance, can more easily access an affordable and effective safety net.
- Require the Secretary to use the statutory definition of specialty crops from the 2004 Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act for USDA programs and services, including for the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program and crop insurance. Clarifying the definition would ensure that USDA resources dedicated to specialty crops are not stretched thinner than they already are.

Inclusion of these policy proposals in the Farm Bill will better ensure that specialty crop producers have the tools they need to succeed and that American and international consumers have easy, affordable access to healthy fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Adam B. Schiff in black ink.Handwritten signature of Ben Ray Lujan in blue ink.

U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján

U.S. Senator Adam Schiff

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Schiff", with a stylized flourish at the end.

U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock", with a stylized flourish at the end.

U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock