

January 24, 2023

**The Honorable Joseph R. Biden**

*President*

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson**

*Chairman*

House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Debbie Stabenow**

*Chairwoman*

Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, & Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable David Scott**

*Ranking Member*

House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable John Boozman**

*Ranking Member*

Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, & Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Dear President Biden, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman,  
Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:**

It is time that we come together to build a more humane, just, and fair food system through the 2023 Farm Bill. The vast majority (89%) of people are concerned about industrial animal agriculture<sup>1</sup> and want to support farmers raising animals in more humane systems. Public dollars should not support a cruel, polluting factory farm system that harms animals, the environment, workers, farmers, and rural communities alike.

The 2023 Farm Bill should be used to support critical efforts to build a more humane and sustainable food system—a food system that treats animals with respect, creates a level playing field for all farmers, and safeguards our clean air and water.

As you begin your work on the 2023 Farm Bill, the undersigned groups urge Congress to prioritize the following:

**1. Increasing corporate accountability and addressing food system**

**consolidation.** A handful of industrial animal agriculture corporations control the vast majority of livestock and poultry production in this country, and have enormous profits to show for it. However, those profits come at the expense of the countless animals and people harmed by the factory farm model.

**2. Ending government investment in the factory farm model.** For decades, the Farm Bill has been used as a tool to prop up the harmful factory farm system, providing billions of dollars in subsidies and funding that directly benefits industrial agriculture. Government support for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and other factory farming infrastructure has played a significant role in enabling industrial agriculture to become so prolific.

**3. Investing in farmers building a more humane system.** 74% of people agree the government should support farmers that are transitioning to more humane practices<sup>2</sup>, yet only a fraction of total spending is made available for higher-welfare and transitioning farmers. It is critical that government funding be redirected toward building robust local and regional food systems able to supply higher-welfare animal products to meet growing demand.

**4. Ensuring strong government oversight of industrial animal agriculture.** Much of the reason that industrial animal agriculture can carry on its inhumane, harmful system is because of how hard it works to keep the public in the dark about what is actually happening on factory farms. If consumers truly knew what practices they were supporting, fewer of them would choose to purchase factory-farmed products. However, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) currently allows misleading labels to hide factory farmed products in plain sight behind poorly regulated, deceptive terms like “natural” and “humanely raised.” Consumers want common sense label regulations and 76% think the government should be enforcing clear definitions for food labels related to animal welfare.<sup>3</sup>

The 2023 Farm Bill will provide an important opportunity to hold industrial animal agriculture companies accountable, invest in the transition to and growth of higher-welfare farming, and create a more transparent marketplace where consumers can recognize and purchase food that aligns with their values. We look forward to working alongside you to make our food system one rooted in compassion, transparency, and fairness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Animal Equality

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Animal Welfare Institute

Aquatic Life Institute

Chilis on Wheels

Compassion in World Farming USA

Compassionate Bay

Dharma Voices for Animals

Ethical Seafood Research

Factory Farming Awareness Coalition

Farm Forward

Farm Sanctuary

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Fórum Nacional de Proteção e Defesa Animal

Fundación Vegetarianos Hoy

Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic

Humane Action Pennsylvania

Humane Action Pittsburgh

In Defense of Animals  
Jewish Initiative for Animals  
Legal Impact for Chickens  
Mercy For Animals  
Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN)  
One Step for Animals  
Our Honor  
Pasado's Safe Haven  
Plataforma ALTO  
Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy Trust  
Social Compassion in Legislation  
Species Unite  
Strategies for Ethical and Environmental Development (SEED)  
The Animal & Vegan Advocacy (AVA) Summit  
The Humane League  
Total Liberation New York  
Vegan Activist Alliance  
VegAvengers Marketing  
Veterinarians Against Ventilation Shutdown  
Voters For Animal Rights  
World Animal Protection US

---

<sup>1</sup> COVID-19's Impact on Public Attitudes Toward Industrial Animal Agriculture, ASPCA and Lake Research Partners, Nov 2020 [www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact\\_on\\_public\\_attitudes\\_toward\\_industrial\\_animal\\_agriculture-final-111120.pdf](http://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_public_attitudes_toward_industrial_animal_agriculture-final-111120.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 2020 Government Support for Higher Welfare Farming, ASPCA and Lake Research, Jan 2020 [www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/2020\\_label\\_survey\\_results\\_report.pdf](http://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/2020_label_survey_results_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 2020 Government Support for Higher Welfare Farming, ASPCA and Lake Research, Jan 2020 [www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/2020\\_label\\_survey\\_results\\_report.pdf](http://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/2020_label_survey_results_report.pdf)