

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We write to you on behalf of Minnesota's family farmers to urge Congressional action before the end of the year to help farmers impacted by disasters. Since 2022, various areas of the state of Minnesota have been under disaster declarations for either severe drought or flooding, which has been compounded by tightening margins that have left Minnesota farmers struggling to break even.

This concern and pressing need to help family farmers is shared by the Administration. The Office of Management and Budget submitted a request to Congress for \$24 billion in disaster assistance through USDA including \$21 billion for natural disasters in 2023 and 2024, \$1.1 billion for debris removal and watershed stabilization and \$617 million to refill the account that helps farmers rehabilitate their land.

Minnesota's farmers are facing losses between \$117 and \$160 per acre on corn and \$82 and \$93 per acre on soybeans, and this is playing out on all crops produced in our state and throughout the country, with farmers experiencing the impacts of declining net farm income since the record highs of 2022.

As Congress considers end-of-year action on the Farm Bill and potential emergency supplemental funding, we ask that you keep Minnesota farmers in mind and include provisions and funding that provide help to producers faster and that can supplement existing crop insurance and other support programs.

For three years in a row Minnesota farmers have faced extreme weather patterns while working to feed and fuel the country. According to USDA's 2024 Farm Sector Income Forecast total crop receipts are forecast to decrease by 10%. Given that Minnesota ranks 5th in the nation for total

crop sales, these crop losses will have a profound impact on farmers' livelihoods and the ability of family farms to stay afloat.

We ask that you prioritize action that can help farmers across the country who have been impacted by disastrous weather events. Given the disastrous droughts and floods Minnesota farmers have faced since 2022, farmers need disaster assistance now that takes into account tight margins.

As work on a bipartisan Farm Bill and potential disaster aid package continues, we look forward to assisting you in developing and passing these bills to ensure a vibrant agricultural economy and strong farm safety net.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
US Senator



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Tina Smith  
US Senator



Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress