

The Honorable Senator Booker
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Representative Khanna
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Booker and Representative Khanna,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to endorse the Farm System Reform Act. We appreciate your leadership to reform our food system to benefit farmers, workers, rural communities, animals, and consumers.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us important if painful lessons about our food system. Now is the time to take bold action to make it more resilient and sustainable before the next crisis is upon us.

While there is much work to be done, the hyper-concentrated vertically integrated model that has been promoted for meat production is badly failing everyone along the supply chain. Farmers are going broke, livestock and poultry face inhumane conditions, meatpacking workers are terribly underpaid and at serious risk of personal injury, and consumers cannot trust that the system will provide food in a crisis.

The only ones benefiting from the current model are multinational meatpackers, who have cherry-picked a few favored producers to receive sweetheart deals and create the illusion of a market.

Not only do we face a worse crisis of concentration than in the early-1900s era of the meatpacking trusts, we also face a crisis of vertical integration that has never been seen before. That is why the Farm System Reform Act is desperately needed. We now must not only curb the influence a few corporations have over meat production, we must also build a sustainable system that prioritizes a fair market, opportunities for family farmers, and fair wages and safe conditions for workers.

Now is the time for bold action to build a food system on the foundation of fairness, opportunity, and sustainability. For those reasons we fully support swift passage of the Farm System Reform Act.

Respectfully,

Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
American Agriculture Movement
American Grassfed Association
American Indian Mothers Inc
Campaign for Family Farmers and the Environment
Compañeras Campesinas
CURE

Family Farm Action
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Indiana Farmers Union
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa Farmers Union
Kansas Black Farmers Association
Land Stewardship Project
Michigan Farmers Union
Missouri Farmers Union
Montana Organic Association
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
Northeast Organic Farming Association/Mass
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Progress Michigan
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund
Rural Coalition
Slow Food USA
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville (SAL)
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT)
Texas Coalition of Rural Landowners
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Women Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN)