

September 27, 2021

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Angus King
133 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Chellie Pingree
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Representative Jared Golden
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree and Representative Golden,

This summer alone, farmers across the country have had to contend with catastrophic storms, floods, droughts, fires and extreme heat. Farmers are on the frontlines, living the impacts of climate change on a daily basis. The situation is no different for farmers like us in Maine. Weather in recent years has included unseasonably warm springs followed by late frosts followed by drought and then torrential rains. These chaotic and unpredictable conditions have made it nearly impossible to plan, have destroyed crops, and are affecting our ability to grow food for our communities. Farmers in Maine are working hard to adapt, but it becomes more challenging to keep pace with our changing climate each growing season. One alarming example is Maine's blueberry barrens, which support one of our largest rural industries, and are warming at a faster rate than any other area of the state. And as we learned last year from the Maine Climate Council's Scientific and Technical Committee, these weather extremes will only increase in the future, leading to poor crop and livestock growth as well as heat exhaustion for farmworkers. All Mainers will face significant costs if we fail to take action.

As the stewards of many important natural resources in Maine, we're committed to protecting the health of our soil and water, our biodiversity, our rural economies and our people. And if given the resources, farmers like us can reduce our emissions, sequester carbon and become resilient to climate change impacts. That's why this group of farmers is calling on Congress to make big and bold infrastructure investments in climate-smart food and agriculture systems.

There is no time to waste, so we urge you not to miss this once-in-a-generation opportunity to support the Build Back Better reconciliation package. In particular, we hope that you will keep farmers like us in mind and ensure that Congress makes investments that will have the biggest impacts on our farm and food system, including:

Conservation and Climate-Friendly Farming Practices

- Provide \$30 billion for USDA's popular and effective Farm Bill conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. These programs help farmers adopt climate smart practices and on-farm infrastructure, however only 25% of CSP applications in Maine were funded last year and only 43% of EQIP applications.

Climate-Focused Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Research

- Increase funding by \$5 billion for research, education, mentorship and extension programs focused on climate transformation and sustainable and organic agriculture, with strong, dedicated support for institutions that serve BIPOC farmers.

Climate-Resilient Rural Food and Farm Infrastructure and Economy

- Provide \$3 billion to support community-based infrastructure focused on value-added agriculture, rural renewable energy, and infrastructure for local processing of crops and livestock. This would improve food system resilience and better support small and medium farms.
- Provide \$10 billion in debt relief to stabilize the operations of producers who have not received a fair share of aid from recent federal support programs.
- Increase procurement of culturally appropriate, fresh and local products in federal nutrition assistance programs.

These are smart investments that would yield real dividends for farmers like us and our families, many of whom have been, and continue to be, underserved by U.S. farm policy. Now is the time to invest in real solutions to the climate crisis that work for farmers and would result in healthier soils, healthier food, more breathable air, more drinkable water, and a climate-smart economy that allows us to feed our communities for generations to come.

The time for action is now.

Sincerely,

(as of September 27, 2021 a.m., listed in town order)

Doug Hartkopf - Hart to Hart Farm - Albion
Linda Hartkopf - Hart to Hart Farm - Albion
Davis Archer - Echo Farm - Alna
Jane Frost - Thirty Acre Farm - Alna
Simon Frost - Thirty Acre Farm - Alna
Kathy Shaw - Valley View Farm - Auburn
Rosemarie Avenia - Bar Harbor Farm - Bar Harbor
Samuel Roberson - Sweet Pea's Farm - Bar Harbor
Dan Barnett-Parker - Belfast Bay Wild Blueberries - Belfast
Katy Green - Belfast Bay Wild Blueberries - Belfast
Daisy Beal - Daisychain Farm - Belfast
Lauren McDonald-Plumb - Old McDonald's Greens - Belfast
Jeff Benton - Orange Circle Farm - Berwick
Abby Sadauckas - Apple Creek Farm - Bowdoinham
David Asmussen - Blue Bell Farm - Bowdoinham
Andrew Fiori - Campo di Fiori - Bowdoinham
Beth Schiller - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Bryna Askins - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Julia Michael - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Justine Barndollar - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Kaitlin Thibeau - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Lauren Sansonetti - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Molly Simpson - Dandelion Spring Farm - Bowdoinham
Bethany Allen - Harvest Tide Organics - Bowdoinham
Gabrielle Gosselin - Six River Farm, LLC - Bowdoinham
Nathan Drummond - Six River Farm, LLC - Bowdoinham
Ian Jerolmack - Stonecipher Farm - Bowdoinham
Caleb Gerritsen - Wood Prairie Family Farm - Bridgewater
Jim Gerritsen - Wood Prairie Family Farm - Bridgewater
Megan Gerritsen - Wood Prairie Family Farm - Bridgewater
Alex Beaudet - Pemaquid Falls Farm - Bristol
Molly DellaRoman - 5 Star Nursery and Orchard - Brooklin
Laura McLaughlin - Stubborn Ox Farm - Brooks
Dylan Brown - Stubborn Ox Farm - Brooks
Carol Gregor - Tapley Farms - Brooksville
Ryan Bushnell - Burnt Meadow Nursery LLC - Brownfield
Maura Bannon - Crystal Spring Farm - Brunswick
Seth Kroeck - Crystal Spring Farm - Brunswick
Daire Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick

Finnegan Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick
Lucretia Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick
Maeve Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick
Michael Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick
Seamus Woodruff - Milkweed Farm - Brunswick
Alessia McCobb - Sound Pine Farm - Brunswick
Virginia Winkler - Sound Pine Farm - Brunswick
Sarah Haven - Catkin Flowers - Brunswick
Taryn Walker - Lewiston Farmers' Market - Brunswick
Patty Carton - Scatter Good Farm - Brunswick
Cooper Funk - Dooryard Farm - Camden
Marina Sideris - Dooryard Farm - Camden
Mary Ellen Chadd - Green Spark Farm - Cape Elizabeth
Diane Brown - The Brown Family Farm - Charlotte
Lisa Mushrall - Blue Barrens Farm - Cherryfield
Mark Jacoby - Blue Barrens Farm - Cherryfield
Rachel Schissler - Libella Flowers - Corinna
Daniel B VanWart - Peaked Mountain Farm - Dedham
Gail J VanWart - Peaked Mountain Farm - Dedham
Brandon McKenney - Patch Farm - Denmark
Brenna Thomas-Googins - Patch Farm - Denmark
Jean Hay Bright - BrightBerry Farm - Dixmont
Marcia Ferry - Peacemeal Farm - Dixmont
Mark Guzzi - Peacemeal Farm - Dixmont
Jan Goranson - Goranson Farm - Dresden
Rob Johanson - Goranson Farm - Dresden
David Colson - New Leaf Farm - Durham
Amy Frances Leblanc - Whitehill Farm - East Wilton
Erica Rudloff - Stone Broke Farm - Exeter
Brigid James - Willow Pond - Falmouth
Michael Recco - Outfield Farms - Farmington
Linda Nelson - Cranberry Camp - Fayette
Chris Wiebusch - Dogbane Beetle Farm - Franklin
Shari Latulippe - Dogbane Beetle Farm - Franklin
Meg Mitchell - South Paw Farm - Freedom
Ryan Mitchell - South Paw Farm - Freedom
Polly Shyka - Villageside Farm - Freedom
Prentice Grassi - Villageside Farm - Freedom
Michael Perisho - Andrews Farm - Gardiner
Alison Freeman - BRTW - Georgetown

James Dionne - Dionne Farms - Grand Isle
Sharon Dionne - Misty Meadows Organic Farm - Grand Isle
Lauren Bruns - Lost & Found Farm - Gray
Ryan Hines - West Berry Farm - Hammond
Doris Luther - Double Wide Ranch - Hollis
Joann Tribby - Blueberry Hill Farm - Jefferson
Rosey Guest - Bluebird Hill Farm - Jefferson
Michael Dennett - Crescent Run Farm - Jefferson
Ryan Dennett - Crescent Run Farm - Jefferson
Logan Higger - Sowbelly Butchery - Jefferson
Ellis Percy - Spruce Bush Farm - Jefferson
Bill Guest - Bluebird Hill Farm - Jefferson
Kristin Shearman - Edge of the Ledge Farm - Jefferson
Brittany Hopkins - Wise Acres Farm - Kenduskeag
Peter W. Curra - Curra Family Farm - Knox
Adrienne Lee - New Beat Farm - Knox
Ken Lamson - New Beat Farm - Knox
Gina Gutman - Windgate - Lebanon
John Wright - Sparkplug Farm - Leeds
Sara Hodges - Sparkplug Farm - Leeds
Julie Beckford - Rebel Hill Farm - Liberty
Peter Beckford - Rebel Hill Farm - Liberty
John G. Pincince - Ashgrove Farm - Lincolnville
Dennis Sidik - Bayberry Gardens - Lincolnville
Jean English - Bayberry Gardens - Lincolnville
Aaron Grim - Cosmic Goat Farm - Litchfield
Deborah Plengey - Maine Lee Morgan Horse Farm - Manchester
Caitlin Frame - The Milkhouse Farm & Creamery - Monmouth
Rebecca Stanley - Sunset Ridge Farm - Monmouth
Bo Dennis - Dandy Ram Farm - Monroe
Anna Shapley-Quinn - North Branch Farm - Monroe
Seth Yentes - North Branch Farm - Monroe
Angela Baglione - Seek-No-Further Farmstead - Monroe
Lisa Kalan - Seek-No-Further Farmstead - Monroe
Janet Baglione - Seek-No-Further Farmstead - Monroe
Greg Purinton-Brown - Toddy Pond Farm - Monroe
Heide Purinton-Brown - Toddy Pond Farm - Monroe
James Gagne - Dickey Hill Farm - Monroe
Noami Brautigam - Dickey Hill Farm - Monroe
Anna Shapley-Quinn - North Branch Farm - Monroe

Jacob Mentlik - After the Fall Farm - Montville
Rachel Chapman - Seven Moon Farm - Montville
Douglas Van Horn - Twitchell Hill Blueberries - Montville
Alain jr Quirion - Quwic maple syrup farm inc - Moose River
Alex McCaffree - Calyx Farm - Morrill
Catherine Durkin - Calyx Farm - Morrill
Jennifer Brown - Willow Moon Ventures - Morrill
David Levinson - Beech Hill Farm - Mount Desert
Anna Davis - Beech Hill Farm - College of the Atlantic - Mount Desert
Jerilyn Waterhouse - Waterhouse Farm - New Gloucester
Margaret York - Nature's Circle Farm - New Limerick
Everett Ottinger - Nettie Fox Farm - Newburgh
Brady Hatch - Morning Dew Farm - Newcastle
Brendan McQuillen - Morning Dew Farm - Newcastle
Jo Ann Myers - Beau Chemin Preservation Farm - Nobleboro
Laura Robinson - Riverside Farm - North Yarmouth
Karen Volckhausen - Happy Town Farm - Orland
Paul Volckhausen - Happy Town Farm - Orland
Erin L Percival Carter - Steamboat Shire - Orono
Barbara Kafka - Checkerberry Farm - Parkman
Jason Kafka - Checkerberry Farm - Parkman
Sam Brown - Steadfast Farm - Parkman
Severine v T Fleming - Smithereen Farm - Pembroke
Nicolas Lindholm - Blue Hill Berry Co. - Penobscot
Ruth Fiske - Blue Hill Berry Co. - Penobscot
Heather Donahue - Balfour Farm - Pittsfield
Tom Roberts - Snakeroot Organic Farm - Pittsfield
David Andrews - Tiny Acres Farm - Pittsfield
Katherine Mahaffey - Slow Rise Farm - Pittston
MaryAngela King-Horne - Leap of Faith Farm - Pownal
Emma Lovering - Snowfields Farm - Pownal
Richard Lee - Tender Soles Farm - Richmond
Chris Lord - Swell Farm - Rockland
Tracey Pavan - Swell Farm - Rockland
Emily Marshall - Aldermere Farm - Rockport
Deb Soule - Avena Botanicals - Rockport
Aaron Englander - Erickson Fields Preserve, Maine Coast Heritage Trust - Rockport
Jon Starr - Ellis River Farm - Rumford
Brie Weisman - Ellis River Farm - Rumford
Jenny Ridley - Willow Pond Farm - Sabattus

Jill Agnew - Willow Pond Farm - Sabattus
Charlie Agnew - Willow Pond Farm - Sabattus
Courtney Williams - Marr Pond Farm - Sangerville
John Bliss - Broadturn Farm - Scarborough
Stacy Brenner - Broadturn Farm - Scarborough
Daniel Mays - Frith Farm - Scarborough
Kelsey Herrington - Two Farmers Farm - Scarborough
Anil Roopchand - Pumpkin Vine Family Farm - Somerville
Kelly Payson-Roopchand - Pumpkin Vine Family Farm - Somerville
Benji Knisley - Sand Hill Farm - Somerville
Shaun Keenan - Sand Hill Farm - Somerville
Kim Michel - Blue Cloud Farm - South Bristol
Dalziel Lewis - Dig Deep Farm - South China
Paige Tyson - Two Loons Farm - South China
Spencer Aitel - Two Loons Farm - South China
Jean Noon - The Noon Family Sheep Farm - Springvale Maine
Billi Barker - Fire Fly Farm - St Albans
Julee Applegarth - Sweet Relief Farm and Steep Falls Farmers Market - Standish
Brent Holiday - Frog Song Farm - Stockton Springs
Maija Lindaas - Frog Song Farm - Stockton Springs
Lorelei Cimeno - Rainbow Farm - Stockton Springs
Cheryl Wixson - Rabbit Hill - Stonington
Phillip McFarland - Rabbit Hill - Stonington
John Roscoe - Wild Tilt Farm - Sullivan
Jenny Minard - Wild Tilt Farm - Sullivan
Kathyrn Millar - A Wrinkle in Thyme - Sumner
Kate Mrozicki - Morgan Bay Farm - Surry
C.J. Walke - Bumpa Farm and Nursery - Swanville
Gregg Stiner - Grace Pond Farm - Thomaston
Rhiannon Hampson - Grace Pond Farm - Thomaston
Ben Whatley - Whatley Farm - Topsham
Nick Whatley - Whatley Farm - Topsham
Laura Whatley - Whatley Farm - Topsham
Chris Abbruzzese - Double Z Land and Livestock - Turner
Kate Ault-Abbruzzese - Double Z Land and Livestock - Turner
Justin Power - Power Family Farm - Turner
Madison MacLean - Power Family Farm - Turner
Katheryn Langelier - Herbal Revolution Farm - Union
Nancy J Johnson - Ravenswood Flower Farm - Union
Suzanne Lametta - Bramble Hill Farm - Unity

Patrick Gilmartin - Bramble Hill Farm - Unity
Jackie Wilson - Common Wealth Farm LLC - Unity
Adam Nordell - Songbird Farm - Unity
Johanna Davis - Songbird Farm - Unity
Jim Buckle - The Buckle Farm - Unity
Hannah Hamilton - The Buckle Farm - Unity
Roberta Bailey - Seven Tree Farm - Vassalboro
Emily Lane - Vinalhaven Kelp, Inc. - Vinalhaven
Wayne Myers - Beau Chemin Preservation Farm - Waldoboro
Bill Pluecker - Hatchet Cove Farm - Warren
Reba Richardson - Hatchet Cove Farm - Warren
Abby Lydon - Dharma Farm - Washington
Jeff Knox - Dharma Farm - Washington
Eli Berry - Crystal Lake Farm and Nursery - Washington
Sharon Turner - Crystal Lake Farm and Nursery - Washington
Mort Mather - Easter Orchard Farm - Wells
Ben Marcus - Sheepscoot General Store and Farm - Whitefield
Taryn Marcus - Sheepscoot General Store and Farm - Whitefield
Annie Watson - Sheepscoot Valley Farm - Whitefield
Guthrie Watson-Moody - Sheepscoot Valley Farm - Whitefield
Henry Watson-Moody - Sheepscoot Valley Farm - Whitefield
Oliver Watson-Moody - Sheepscoot Valley Farm - Whitefield
Michael Moody - Sheepscoot Valley Farm - Whitefield
Russell Black - Black Acres Farm LLC - Wilton
Ben Whalen - Bumbleroot Organic Farm - Windham
Melissa Law - Bumbleroot Organic Farm - Windham
Katie Webb-Clark - Reed Farm - Windsor
Nate Clark - Reed Farm - Windsor
Peter Garrett - Simply Grande Gardens - Winslow
Elizabeth Haines - Fisher Farm LLC - Winterport
Craig Hickman - Annabessacook Farm - Winthrop
Ron DiGravio - Cranberry Rock Farm - Winthrop
Abe Zacharias - Zach's Farm - York
Katherine Lucas - Zach's Farm - York
Lorne Lucas - Zach's Farm - York
Stephen Gallagher - Zach's Farm - York