

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chair
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking Member
House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Lucas and Peterson:

We are writing to thank you for your hard work on the Farm Bill and to let you know that, on behalf of the 1,200 land trusts that are members of the Land Trust Alliance, we urge all Members to vote for the conference report.

Land trusts have partnered with NRCS on the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program and the Grassland Reserve Program, which are now to be succeeded by an Agricultural Land Easements program. We are very pleased that the conference report has resulted in rules for Agricultural Land Easements that embrace that partnership, helping ensure that this program will be an effective means to keep important farm and ranch lands in production, with great benefits to the economies of their local communities and to the conservation of our nation's agricultural lands, its wildlife, and its water resources.

As the voice of local land trusts across America and the five million supporters and landowners they represent, we thank you for your hard work in creating a comprehensive, five-year Farm Bill. We encourage swift passage of this legislation and signature by the President.

Sincerely,



Russell Shay
Director of Public Policy