



The Western Landowners Alliance advances policies and practices that sustain working lands, connected landscapes and native species.

February 27, 2023

Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture

Glenn Thompson, Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

John Boozman, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture

David Scott, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

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

The Western Landowners Alliance (WLA) is a landowner-founded, landowner-led non-partisan organization that advances policies and practices that sustain working lands, connected landscapes and native species. We thank you for your leadership in promoting the role of agriculture in providing food, fiber, supporting vital fish and wildlife habitat, and other conservation values.

As an organization working with and on behalf of producers in the West, we applaud the \$20 billion investment in Farm Bill conservation programs last year along with much needed support for Conservation Technical Assistance. These funds will provide a necessary boost to working lands programs, voluntary easements, and will help spur innovation in supporting working farm and rangeland in the face of extreme drought, wildfire, and other evolving threats to the viability of western working landscapes.

As deliberations around the 2023 Farm Bill begin, we believe that it is essential that these funds remain dedicated to Title II conservation programs. The Colorado River, along with numerous other critical western river basins face unparalleled challenges. These challenges are exacerbated by rapidly increasing development pressure, deteriorating economic prospects for many producers, and other environmental pressures. At the same time, Farm Bill Conservation Title programs remain critically oversubscribed, but are adaptable to meet the needs of western producers.

To make the most of these funds, flexibility, and holistic, ecosystem-level approaches will be key. That holistic approach must also be paired with an enhanced focus on improving program delivery, simplifying the process for producers to access these programs and bolstering agency capacity. In this pivotal moment for working lands in the West, we need all tools in the toolbox. This includes ensuring that this investment in working lands conservation remains in the Conservation Title.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LA', written in a cursive style.

Lesli Allison
Executive Director
Western Landowners Alliance