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# United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
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April 9, 2024

Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Charles Schumer:

Last week you sent a letter to our colleagues including your plans for the coming weeks and months for the Senate. You said, “Democrats have an ambitious agenda to help the American people.” Unfortunately, for the American people, the Farm Bill is not included in your agenda.

Of the seventeen items that you outlined for the Senate, the Farm Bill was missing. This important piece of legislation authorizes much of the work of the United States Department of Agriculture. Work, that as the USDA likes to say, touches every American every day. This includes important nutrition programs, crop insurance, conservation, rural development, research, and foreign marketing programs. Without the Farm Bill, much of this work wouldn’t get done.

A one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill is going to expire on September 30. The Senate must work to pass a bipartisan Farm Bill before that deadline. Farmers across the United States deserve the stability of a new five-year Farm Bill. A one-year extension increases uncertainty in markets and uncertainty for farmers who must make decisions today that will affect their operations for years to come.

Not only that, but if we pass another one-year extension, we will be operating on a Farm Bill that is seven years old. The 2018 Farm Bill does not account for all of the changes that have occurred in the agriculture sector and rural communities since it was passed. Farmers face new input prices, technologies, and other realities such as a deficit in agricultural trade.

Additionally, as the Farm Bill has been sidelined, other important bills that may otherwise have been considered in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee have been stalled.

You rightly pointed out that, “with divided government, bipartisanship and compromise are the

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only ways to make progress and get things done that will help the American people.” The American people have been expecting a new Farm Bill for over six months. Historically, the Farm Bill has been one of the most bipartisan bills that Congress passes. You said that Democrats are, “ready to work with them [Republicans] to find compromise. . . ” So I call on you and the rest of my Democratic colleagues in the Senate to do the hard work of coming to the table to bring forward and pass a bipartisan Farm Bill this year.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

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