July 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the over 11,000 members and supporters of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), I’m writing to urge you to ensure robust funding for climate-smart agriculture in the reconciliation bill. American farms and soils are critical national infrastructure, providing food security to the U.S. and much of the world, and economic security to rural America. As the lead organization supporting passage of the bipartisan Soil Health Demonstration Trial in the 2018 Farm Bill, we are committed to advancing the role of agricultural carbon removal to mitigate climate change while stabilizing the farm economy, in particular for small and medium producers.

Extreme weather driven by climate change is wreaking havoc on farms across the country, flooding fields or desiccating crops in unprecedented heat waves and drought. Meanwhile the costs of fossil inputs, such as fertilizer and pesticide, continue to rise - while their use exacerbates the greenhouse gas emissions associated with farming. Producers are caught between these opposing forces, with limited capacity to address the root causes of their growing economic vulnerability.

Enhancing our soil fertility and crop resilience is imperative in the face of growing climate stressors. Investing in climate-smart cultivation practices and recognizing and supporting the climate mitigation benefits that these regenerative practices provide will create new revenue sources, reduced costs, and greater income stability for producers. This federal investment will be a lifeline, especially for the survival of independent family farms that are essential to competitive marketplaces as well as supply chain resilience, and which the National Institute for Food and Agriculture calls, “a nursery for the development of new enterprises and marketing systems.”

At the same time a clear market signal that the federal government is looking to the Ag sector for both reduced emissions and carbon removal will turbo-charge private sector investment in the Ag Tech industry, leading to a new generation of rural jobs.

E2’s report, Healthy Soils and the Climate Connection, describes the broad economic benefits to farmers, the Ag Tech sector, and consumers from strategic federal investment in climate-smart agriculture. We urge you to support this win-win-win proposition with robust funding in the reconciliation bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Lederer
Chair and Co-founder