

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to express our urgent concern over the delays in distributing nearly \$50 million in Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program funding for fiscal year 2025. Without immediate action from the Department, American farmers and ranchers will lose access to yet another critical source of federal support.

The SARE program supports research, demonstration, and education projects across a wide range of topics related to sustainable agriculture. It is the only such program that is farmer- and rancher-led – ensuring that outcomes are focused on what producers really need in order to sustain their livelihoods and protect their land and operations. From new farmer training in Maine, to milk quality research in Pennsylvania, to studies on tomato cultivation in Texas and Oklahoma, the SARE program is a vital pathway for farmers – especially small and mid-sized -- to take the lead in addressing the challenges that impact them most.

At a time when farmers and ranchers are facing increased costs and significant uncertainty, it is unacceptable for the Department to be withholding funding approved by Congress that delivers both short-term financial support and strategies for long-term viability. We urge you to disburse SARE program funding for fiscal year 2025 by September 30th, or else risk producers losing out entirely on meaningful opportunities.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.


Sincerely,

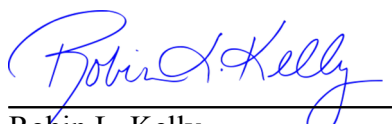



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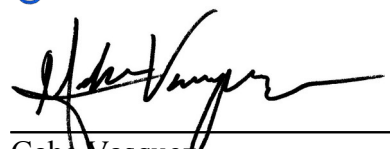

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Member of Congress

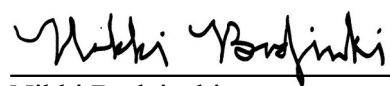

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

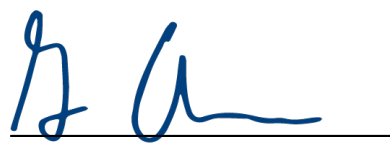

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

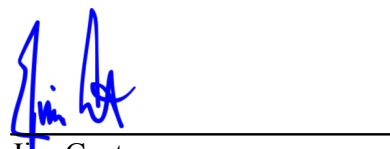

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