



## Sample letter to US Representatives and Senators:

Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

The League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization (LWV UMRR) thanks you for your deep commitment to the farmers of America. The 2023 Farm Bill is another opportunity for you to show your support of farmers who are at the forefront of climate change issues, like the serious drought our state is presently experiencing and the extreme rainfall events that cause runoff when it does rain. **Now more than ever, we need more funding for conservation programs that endorse climate-smart agricultural practices, and we need technical assistance for those conservation programs.**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes \$19.5 billion for climate-smart agriculture and conservation. That \$19.5 billion is a game-changer for farming and has boosted the opportunities for all those farmers that have been turned down in prior Farm Bills due to underfunded popular conservation programs. **Congress must assure that all that money is used for truly climate friendly agriculture.** In February 2023, the national League of Women Voters signed on to a letter with nearly 650 other organizations, urging leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to protect the \$19.5 billion climate-smart agriculture investments allocated in the IRA.

Our nation is struggling with water quality and quantity issues. What goes on the land eventually ends up in the ground water or surface water where most of our drinking water supply exists. **Healthy safe drinking water starts with well managed conservation programs and funding to ensure that farmers and ranchers have access to a variety of tools to help them reduce runoff and maintain rainwater in their fields nurturing their crops.** Conservation programs that focus on soil health can provide one of the most effective and efficient uses of additional funding for building a better Farm Bill of 2023. Nutrient pollution caused from runoff can be reduced with USDA's voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs. Safe drinking water needs to be safeguarded for your constituents.

The U.S. Congress typically renews the Farm Bill every five years with strong bipartisan cooperation. Conservation practices supported by the Farm Bill result in clearer water, increased carbon sequestration, healthier soils, increased flood control and increased drought resistance. **The 2023 Farm Bill represents a tremendous opportunity to support farmers and ranchers by providing the USDA with the tools that it needs to deliver on-the ground technical assistance.** Conservation Technical Assistance provides landowners with site-specific solutions needed to implement conservation practices on their lands, while providing accountability to ensure maximum return on public investment.

Thank you for your leadership to bring a better built Farm Bill 2023. The LWV UMRR ILO is asking you to protect IRA funding and to provide even more money to the underfunded high demand conservation programs that build healthier soil.

Sincerely,