August 27, 2023

Senator Bob Casey

310 Grant St., Suite 2415

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Senator Casey,

The Farm Bill is our nation’s most important national food system legislation. It will impact us all – from the food we eat, to how our land is taken care of, to our ability to tackle the climate crisis.

Food systems are one of the major contributors to global climate change. Healthy soils are crucial to sequestering carbon, and also to supply crops with more nutrients. We need to make working lands more resilient to our changing climate.

Specifically, I ask you to:

* Increase funding for agricultural research including a focus on building resilience to climate change, through programs such as the Agricultural Research Service.
* Ensure robust funding for conservation programming that US farmers need to adapt to climate change, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.
* Advance policies and funding for programs to enhance adaptation measures for small holder farmers in lower-income communities and help reduce the negative impacts of climate change on food systems.
* Protect the IRA investment in conservation programs. Ensure continued funding for climate smart agriculture.
* Ensure that crop insurance and other programs include payment limitations and rules giving equitable access to small and medium-scale farmers.

As a person of faith, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Sincerely,