January 29, 2014

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

The Campaign for Renewed Rural Development (CRRD), a coalition of over thirty of our nation’s rural policy advocacy organizations, applauds your hard work and leadership in moving a comprehensive Farm Bill through Congress. We now urge the full U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to pass the bi-partisan farm bill conference report.

While our members represent a broad spectrum of rural interests, the CRRD unites around the need for a robust Rural Development title that promotes economic growth and stability in rural areas by creating jobs and ensuring the success of our next generations.

We are pleased that the conference report addresses many CRRD priorities within the Rural Development title and applaud the $228 million mandatory funding level for the Rural Development title including $63 million in mandatory funding for the Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG); $15 million in mandatory funding for the Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program, and $150 million in mandatory funding for the Water and Waste Water Program.

Rural America is the backbone to our country and requires efficient and effective public policies in order to thrive. Again, we applaud your hard work and leadership throughout this process and look forward to Congress passing a new farm bill.