

April 15, 2021

Dear Members, House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee:

We are writing in support of \$50 million for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), within the Conservation Technical Assistance section of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriation.

Grazing-based operations can be well managed grasslands that improve the profitability for many producers across the nation. Grass-based farms and ranches are an important strategy for introducing new farmers and ranchers into livestock management because they can be low-capital operations that generate sufficient income. Managed grazing of livestock can help new farmers and ranchers stay in their rural communities.

Effectively managed grasslands can protect water quality, improve soil health, and provide a good habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Operations that keep cover on the ground year-round, increase water retention and can reduce the impacts of flooding also.

Maximizing the benefits of well-managed grazing lands takes knowledge and skill. Grazing planning, technical assistance and peer-to-peer education are important. Counties with dedicated grazing staff show marked increases in the overall use of positive practices, such as rotational and prescribed grazing.

\$50 million will help ensure that farmers and ranchers receive the technical help that is needed for a positive outcome. This program should include a grazing network of farmers and grazing educational events, such as workshops, webinars, and other outreach.

We request that you support \$50 million in funding for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative for FY 2022.

Sincerely,

National:

American Grassfed Association
Ducks Unlimited
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)
Heartland Productions
Izaak Walton League of America
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Grazing Lands Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Grouse Partnership
Oregon Tilth
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Savanna Institute
Society for Range Management
Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil4Climate
Trout Unlimited
United States Cattlemen's Association
Wallace Center at Winrock International

Bitterwater and & Cattle Co. (California)
California Climate and Agriculture Network

Florida Cattlemen's Association
Cypress Chapter, Izaak Walton League
Florida Keys Chapter, Izaak Walton League
Florida Division, Izaak Walton League

HKj Ranch, LLC, (Georgia, National)
McIntosh SEED (Georgia)
Square O Consulting LLC
White Oak Pastures Inc.

Pa'ahana Livestock LLC (Hawaii)

Owl Wing Ranch (Idaho)

Living Light Farm
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Elton Mau Ranch

Indiana Division, Izaak Walton League of America

Quivira Coalition (Intermountain West)
Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Great Plains Fire Science Exchange (Kansas)
Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Inc.
Kansas Rural Center
Kansas Farmers Union
Sunny Day Farms

Delta Dairy LLC (Louisiana)

Caldwell Family Farm (Maine)

Maine Farmland Trust

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Old Crow Ranch

Singing Pastures Farm

The Milkhouse Dairy Farm

Fair Farms (Maryland)

Maryland Division, Izaak Walton League

5 Cow Farm

Cairns Family Farm (Michigan)

Chinook's Acres

Rod Imhoff Farms

Zacharda Farms II LLC

American Farmland Trust Midwest

Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota

Land Stewardship Project

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Green Lands Blue Waters

Climate Land Leaders

Montana Organic Association/Organic

Green Cover Seeds

Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society

Western Nebraska Resources Council

Wachiska Audubon Society

Clint Hayden (New Mexico)

Jones Corona Ranch LLC

NM Healthy Soil Working Group

Spring Dandelion Farms

New York Grazing Coalition

Cobblestone Valley Farm

Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (North and South Carolina)

Nufarm Americas (North Carolina)

FARRMS (North Dakota)
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
Dakota Resource Council

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Oklahoma Grazing Lands Coalition

Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Division, Izaak Walton League of America
Friends of Family Farmers (Oregon)
Oregon Tilth

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture (Pennsylvania)
Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition
Truesdail Farms

South Carolina Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition

Lake Fork Kiko Goats (Texas)
RJ Free Lance Writing
Texas Grazing Land Coalition

Vermont Grass Farmers Association
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
Rural Vermont

Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League

West Virginia Division, Izaak Walton League

Bouressa Family Farm (Wisconsin)
Central Wisconsin Graziers Network
Clean Wisconsin
Compeer Financial
Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (Wisconsin, National)
Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
GrassWorks, Inc.
Marathon County Land & Water Conservation Department
Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (Wisconsin, Midwest)
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
River Alliance of Wisconsin

River Country Resource Conservation and Development
Sand County Foundation (Wisconsin, National)
Savanna Institute (Wisconsin, National)
SLO Farmers Cooperative
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Wisconsin Land & Water
Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy & Livestock Farmers (Wisconsin, National)