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Specialty Crop Alliance Urges Congress to Pass Farm Bill During Lame-Duck Session

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 2026 -- The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance joined the American Farm Bureau Federation and a broad agricultural coalition today in calling on Congress to enact a new, five-year farm bill before the end of the year. The groups outline the pressing need for modernized agricultural programs in a recent letter sent to U.S. House and Senate leadership.

“America's specialty crop growers cannot wait for the next Congress to restart this legislative process,” the Alliance said in a statement. “Our producers face unprecedented economic pressures, rising input costs, and severe weather events. We need the certainty a modernized farm bill provides.”

“Specialty crops account for more than one-third of all U.S. crop sales, yet they historically receive only a fraction of federal agricultural resources. Congress must act immediately to pass a bipartisan agreement that delivers critical investments in specialty crop research, market access and crop insurance to ensure the long-term viability of our domestic food supply,” the group concluded.

The SCFBA is co-chaired by Cathy Burns, CEO of the International Fresh Produce Association; Mike Joyner, President of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association; Dave Puglia, President and CEO of Western Growers; and Kam Quarles, CEO of the National Potato Council, and is led by Executive Director Jonathan Cordone.

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The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance is a national coalition of more than 150 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. The Alliance was established to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans by broadening the scope of U.S. agricultural public policy. For more information, visit farmbillalliance.com.