

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Peterson,

We are writing you out of concern regarding the process and possible legislative proposals in the 2018 Farm Bill. We are proud of the bipartisan relationships we have on the Agriculture Committee and the fair and open debate we have followed in the past. We appreciate your commitment to continuing these bipartisan traditions.

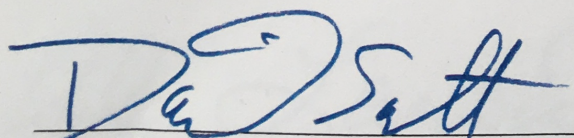
While we trust your leadership and expertise on the farm bill's varied provisions, we have grown increasingly concerned about the nutrition policies being pushed by the Majority. Items you have broadly outlined in your meetings with us and that have been reported in the press are a significant cause of concern.

At no point during the Committee's 23 hearings on SNAP was there testimony in favor of radical reforms to SNAP, including drastic changes to the amount, administration, and delivery of benefits. It is our understanding that outside stakeholders are skeptical these proposals would work, but they are unable to determine their impacts until they can review the language. Furthermore, we still do not have a clear picture of what is included in the bill's other titles.

It is for these reasons that we are asking you to abstain from further negotiations until the Chairman agrees to share the legislative text and its detailed impact with members of the Committee. While we understand the Chairman's intent to withhold legislative language, we cannot, in good faith, agree to any deal without ample time to review proposed policies and their impacts on our constituents.

We want to pass a farm bill this year. We look forward to working with you to develop bipartisan and bicameral legislation benefiting our urban, suburban, and rural constituents.

Sincerely,



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress