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September 10, 2012

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

Nearly two months have passed since I joined 78 of my colleagues in urging you to hold a vote on the 2012 Farm Bill before the August District work period. It speaks volumes about Washington's profound dysfunction that, rather than staying to renew our support for the agricultural economy, Congress adjourned and left America's farmers and their drought-stricken fields out to dry. Since that time, I have met with dairy farmers, cherry growers, vintners, and other agricultural producers across Western New York, and their message remains clear: we need a Farm Bill now.

My constituents understand the critical role that federal agriculture policy plays in managing risk, advancing research, and helping American farmers compete in an increasingly global marketplace. The economic impact of these programs cannot be understated; in my district alone, nearly 3,500 farms produce over \$739 million in goods each year. Western New York milk, apples, onions, and other nutritional products bolster our food security, grow our economy, reduce our trade deficit, and feed people here at home and around the world. I know you share my appreciation for agriculture's vital contribution to our economy, and I implore you to do the right thing for rural America and the entire nation by making passage of a Farm Bill your highest priority.

In just three weeks, over 100 farm bill programs will expire without further Congressional action. Fortunately, much of the work is already done. As you know, the House Agriculture Committee approved its version of the 2012 Farm Bill on July 11, 2012 with a bipartisan vote of 35-11. Similarly, a strong majority of our colleagues in the Senate passed their own Farm Bill on June 21st of this year. Both chambers' agriculture panels have done their part, and it is long past time for the House of Representatives to fulfill our obligation to our nation's farmers.

America's agricultural producers need the certainty of a real farm bill in order to make long term plans, invest in new capital, and expand their businesses. Every day Congress delays, that certainty waivers, bolstering an already significant barrier to economic growth. Just as I

have partnered with lawmakers across the country, and across the aisle, to further this critical priority for our country, I urge you to put the needs of America's farmers before partisan differences and immediately work to pass a comprehensive Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen C. Hochul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress