



WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, IMPORE CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE TO PASS A HEALTHY FARM BILL.

Every five years, the \$300 billion Farm Bill lays a foundation for how healthy Americans will be. It creates the “default” conditions for what we eat and what foods America produces. Its largest slice, the Nutrition Title, governs foods bought and eaten by lower-income Americans receiving food assistance. More than a Farm Bill, we urge a healthy “Food Bill”—a critical step for Americans on the path to healthier eating, living and food production.

Farming takes place within a broader, integrated ecosystem. A healthy food system therefore also must be sustainable—one that promotes the health of individuals in addition to the long-term economic health of communities and farmers, and the health of the environment and future generations.

A Healthy Farm Bill should support goals and programs that are:

- **Healthy.** Food production should be safe and healthy for farmers and workers. Healthy food systems are those taking into account health impacts across the entire lifecycle of how food is produced, processed, packaged, labeled, distributed, marketed, consumed and disposed.
- **Fair.** It supports fair conditions for individual farmers, workers and eaters within the food system. Fair means more than providing all Americans access to affordable, healthy food—fair prices and wages also create more just communities, urban and rural. Finally, fair means creating a food system today that ensures healthy food for future generations.
- **Sustainable.** Because food is essential for life, unsustainable conditions for producing food are not healthy. A healthy, sustainable food system conserves, protects and regenerates natural resources, landscapes and biodiversity so that present and future food needs can be met.
- **Resilient.** Resilient food systems are those best prepared to withstand and thrive in an age of unpredictable climate, increased pest resistance and declining, increasingly costly water and energy supplies. Resilience is a prerequisite for the long-term health of the food system.
- **Diverse.** A diverse food system supports resilience, sustainability and health. Maintaining genetic diversity across plants and animals supports future resilience. Geographic diversity means a food system reflecting true regional differences in natural resources, climate, customs and heritage. Because it lends resilience, a diverse food system in terms of genetics, region and scale will be more sustainable. A food system diverse in the types of foods produced, scale and kind of production means all Americans will have access to a variety of healthy food choices.
- **Economically Balanced.** Provides economic opportunity that is balanced across the nation’s geographic regions, and at different scales of activity, from local to global, for a diverse range of food system participants. Affords farmers and workers in all sectors of the system a living wage.
- **Transparent.** Farmers, workers and eaters are empowered to actively participate in decision-making across all parts of the food system, and share in opportunities to gain an understanding of how their food is produced, transformed, distributed, marketed, consumed and disposed.

Sign the charter at healthyfoodaction.org

Informed by deliberations of the Healthy, Sustainable Food System Collaboration, comprised of the American Public Health Association, the American Dietetic Association, the American Planning Association and the American Nurses Association, which met June 9–10, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Only the individuals or organizations signing the charter should be construed as endorsing it.

Healthy Food Action is a project of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).



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Healthy
Food
Action
Making health the future of food and farming

These distinguished health professionals have already signed the Charter for a Healthy Farm Bill:

Affiliations are for identification only and do not imply institutional endorsement.

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University of California, San Francisco
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