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United States Senate

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June 5, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

As you continue to develop a bipartisan farm bill, we urge you to include provisions that will improve soil health and enhance farm income. Ensuring the upcoming farm bill contains tools and resources for producers to improve soil health on rangeland and cropland will benefit farmers and ranchers, and rural communities at large.

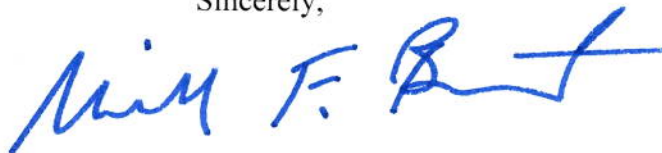
The upcoming farm bill can enable farmers and ranchers to plan for and pursue locally relevant solutions that increase soil carbon and improve soil quality. Existing USDA conservation programs can be modified to support these efforts and we urge the committee to consider such proposals.

A focus on soil health should also take into account how regional differences in climate and precipitation determine the most appropriate practices. USDA-supported research, including through land grant institutions, will improve our scientific understanding of these difference. Additionally, the ability to disseminate this information through USDA extension, technical assistance, and local partnerships will be vital. Therefore, we encourage the Committee to consider the importance of soil health as it develops each of the various farm bill titles.

A Farm Bill that bolsters efforts by producers to improve soil health and therefore boost farm incomes is one of the most meaningful ways to sustain a strong farm economy.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator