

## Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon

## H.R. 1824: THE FOOD AND FARM ACT OF 2023

The Farm Bill is one of the most important yet underappreciated pieces of legislation Congress regularly acts on. Hopelessly complex and expensive, the Farm Bill layers conflicting incentives and giveaways that make it harder to grow food and clean up the environment, get started as a small or mid-size farmer, and access healthy food. The Food and Farm Act is a new vision for the Farm Bill that puts farmers, families, and the environment first in our country's food policy.

## THE PROBLEM

The current Farm Bill gives away millions to big agribusiness, incentivizes the production of unhealthy foods, doesn't support small and mid-size farmers, and prioritizes process over outcomes when it comes to clean air, clean water, and healthy soil. In short, it gives too much to the wrong people to grow the wrong food in the wrong places. Congress can and should do better.

## THE SOLUTION

The Food and Farm Act is a comprehensive alternative Farm Bill that advances four principles of agricultural reform: (1) focusing resources on those who need it most; (2) fostering innovation; (3) encouraging investments in people and the planet; and (4) ensuring access to healthy foods.

The Food and Farm Act will:

- Cut, cap, and clarify existing farm subsidy programs while increasing access for farmers who grow more than one crop (Title I);
- Expand reform existing conservation programs for better results (Title II);
- Increase the reach and efficacy of our food assistance programs (Title III);
- Increase access to healthy food in food deserts and other underserved areas, schools, and at farmers markets through SNAP and other initiatives (Title IV);
- Provide resources to beginning, retiring, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (Title V);
- Establish a Food Waste Title to better prioritize food waste reduction (Title VI);
- Invest in research programs related to sustainable agriculture and help farmers and navigate a changing climate (Title VII);
- Reform USDA research and organic programs to ensure that federal dollars support the humane treatment of animals (Title VIII); and
- Support vibrant local and regional food systems (Title IX).

Endorsements: Taxpayers for Common Sense; Center for Biological Diversity; Environmental Working Group; League of Conservation Voters; Union of Concerned Scientists; Food and Water Watch; EcoTrust; Farm Sanctuary; American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Kiss the Ground; Oregon Agricultural Trust; Humane Society Legislative Fund; Growing Gardens; Rogue Farm Corps; Consumer Federation of America; Food Tank; Friends of the Earth; Independent Restaurants Coalition; Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture; Organically Grown; Oregon Organic Coalition; Environment America; US Public Interest Research Group; Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive; Chef Gregory Gourdet