



October 28, 2025

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Submitted by: SiX Action on behalf of 106 state legislators representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Delivered to: U.S. Congressional Member Delegations representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Re: Oppose Federal Actions Impacting Northeast Agriculture and Food Systems

The undersigned 106 state legislators from across the Northeast, are writing to voice our strong opposition to ongoing federal actions that are negatively impacting our region's food and farm systems and all who rely on them.

The actions we oppose include:

- Proposed administrative restructuring of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), leading to the department's withdrawal from our region;
- Immigration enforcement actions that have outsized impact on farmworkers and our rural economies;
- Discontinuation of critical USDA programs that directed millions of dollars to regional farmers and brought local foods to our schools, senior centers, and food banks; and
- Cancellation of previously-awarded grant funding on which our region's farmers rely.

In addition to these ongoing actions, we recognize that the federal government shutdown has had significant consequences on many aspects of our food and farm system. During a shutdown, USDA funding programs are impacted and farmers cannot access essential loans or receive disaster assistance. Conservation program payments are suspended, publication of critical reports ceases, and SNAP and WIC funding is threatened. These and other consequences of the government shutdown only exacerbate the actions we write to oppose, which are outlined below.

First, the USDA reorganization plan currently under consideration would have a significant negative impact on farmers and forest industry professionals in our region. SM 1078-015, issued by USDA Secretary Rollins on July 24, 2025, states that the purpose of administrative reorganization is to "ensure USDA is located closer to the people it serves." However, the memo then goes on to outline plans that would have the exact opposite impact on our region.

These plans include the elimination of Area Offices of the Agricultural Research Service, consolidation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service from twelve regions to five, reduction of the Food and Nutrition Service from seven regions to five, phasing out the nine regional

offices of the Forest Service, and aligning the Natural Resources Conservation Service with the newly proposed regional hub structure. This proposed structure places the nearest USDA office to our region in Raleigh, North Carolina, which will negatively impact the thousands of farmers working hard across the Northeast to steward the land and feed our communities.

Please oppose USDA restructuring that removes critical resources and capacity from our region.

Second, the ongoing crackdown on immigrants and promised mass deportations have outsized impacts on our region's food system, agriculture industry, and rural communities. Two-thirds of farmworkers who harvest our crops, half of meatpacking workers, and more than a quarter of farm industry truck drivers are immigrants, whether permanent residents, seasonal visa holders, or undocumented workers. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency has escalated actions at farms, fisheries, food processing plants, and restaurants across our region; continuation of these actions at the current level will upend our rural and agricultural economies – and ultimately will significantly increase food prices for consumers.

Please stand with our communities and in defense of our region's agricultural economy in opposition to these cruel and chilling enforcement actions. Please encourage civility and human decency when enforcement actions are taken.

Third, the discontinuation of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA), LFPA Tribal Program, and the Local Food for Schools (LFS) Program is short-sighted, and will have far-reaching negative impacts. The haphazard elimination of these programs leaves a critical funding gap in our farm economies when many farmers are struggling to make ends meet; removes fresh, nutritious, locally-grown foods from plates in our schools and senior centers; and negatively impacts the health and nutrition of individuals. Seniors with fixed incomes facing rising food costs rely on these programs as their only source of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Please stand up for our farmers, students, and seniors, and reinstate these programs that are so effective in supporting farmers and getting local foods into our schools and senior centers.

Finally, the cancellation of the previously awarded Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities grant program is a huge blow to the 14,000 farms that were being directly supported to implement practices such as cover cropping, improved nutrient management, crop rotation, no-till, and other practices proven to support both agricultural production and environmental conservation. The cancellation of this program hurts our region's farmers.

Please work to support these projects and get these funds into the hands of the hardworking farmers who deserve them.

We, the undersigned state lawmakers from across the Northeast, urge our members of Congress to oppose these actions, which risk devastating our region's farmers, consumers, food security, and economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

Connecticut

Senator Mae Flexer
Senator Gary Winfield
Representative Aundre Bumgardner
Representative Anne Hughes
Representative Susan Johnson
Representative Roland Lemar

Maine

Representative Gary Friedmann
Representative Sally Cluchey
Representative Bill Pluecker
Representative Tiffany Roberts
Representative Daniel Sayre

Massachusetts

Senator Paul Mark
Representative Natalie M. Blais
Representative Carmine Gentile
Representative Danielle Gregoire
Representative David LeBoeuf
Representative David Linsky
Representative Steven Owens
Representative Lindsay Sabadosa
Representative Aaron Saunders

New Hampshire

Representative Susan Almy
Representative Billie Butler
Representative Susan Elberger
Representative Sallie Fellows
Representative Nick Germana
Representative Linda Haskins
Representative Jessica LaMontagne
Representative Patrick N. Long
Representative Janet Lucas
Representative Megan Murray
Representative Teri O'Rorke
Representative Lucius Parshall
Representative Kris Schultz

Representative Wendy Thomas

New York

Senator Jamaal Bailey
Senator April Baskin
Senator Samra Brouk
Senator Siela Bynoe
Senator Leroy Comrie
Senator Jeremy Cooney
Senator Patricia Fahy
Senator Nathalia Fernandez
Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Senator Pete Harckham
Senator Michelle Hinchey
Senator Brian Kavanaugh
Senator Liz Krueger
Senator Rachel May
Senator Shelley Mayer
Senator Zellnor Myrie
Senator Roxanne Persaud
Senator Julia Salazar
Senator Luis Sepúlveda
Senator Sam Sutton
Senator Lea Webb
Assemblymember Phara Forrest
Assemblymember Donna Lupardo
Assemblymember Karen McMahon
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Assemblymember Albert Stirpe Jr.

Rhode Island

Senator Alana DiMario
Senator Dawn Euer
Senator Meghan Kallman
Senator Pamela Lauria
Senator Tiara Mack
Senator Linda Ujifusa
Senator Bridget Valverde
Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Karen Alzate
Representative Jennifer Boylan

Representative Terri-Denise Cortvriend
Representative Megan Cotter
Representative Cherie Cruz
Representative Susan Donovan
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Jenni Furtado
Representative Joshua Giraldo
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Katherine Kazarian
Representative Rebecca Kislak
Representative Michelle McGaw
Representative David Morales
Representative Brandon Potter
Representative June Speakman
Representative Tina Spears
Representative Jennifer Stewart
Representative Teresa Tanzi

Vermont

Senator Joe Major
Senator Robert Plunkett
Senator Tanya Vyhovsky
Senator Anne Watson
Representative Doug Bishop
Representative Michelle Bos-Lun
Representative Conor Casey
Representative Esme Cole
Representative David Durfee
Representative Zon Eastes
Representative William Greer
Representative Emilie Krasnow
Representative Kathleen James
Representative Jed Lipsky
Representative Kate Logan
Representative Chris Morrow
Representative Herb Olson
Representative Monique Priestley
Representative Heather Surprenant