



February 1, 2018

Members of Congress
Washington, DC



To Members of Congress,

We request that the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill include aquaponic agriculture on a level playing-field with traditional agriculture. All U.S. Farm Bill programs relating to crop insurance, crop subsidies, agricultural research and conservation should apply equally to aquaponics as to traditional soil agriculture.

Aquaponic growers around the world have proven that we can provide the freshest, healthiest produce in any environment with the fewest resources. We employ water-based, recirculating systems of fish, plants and bacteria to produce vegetables, fruits and fish (edible or ornamental).

In every state across the country, aquaponic growers are supplying markets and restaurants; growing for their own diet; teaching STEM education; and contributing to sustainability research.

Aquaponic agriculture has many nationwide benefits:

- **Less water use** - Aquaponic systems use over 90% less water than traditional agriculture per pound of produce.
- **Local economic growth** - Aquaponics can be performed from cities to deserts, offering jobs and local economic growth anywhere.
- **No antibiotics** - Aquaponic systems are naturally incompatible with antibiotics; growers rely on a diverse microbial ecosystem for natural disease suppression.
- **Less food miles** - Aquaponics can deliver fresh produce in any environment which will reduce carbon use, food spoilage, and nutrient depletion.
- **Better food safety** - Controlled-environment greenhouses minimize the risk of outdoor contamination hazards that cause most outbreaks.
- **No toxic runoff** - Aquaponic systems are closed-loop and do not emit the harmful agricultural runoff that causes aquatic dead-zones.
- **No synthetic chemicals** - Aquaponic systems are naturally incompatible with synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.
- **Less land-use and soil erosion** - Aquaponics can be practiced anywhere, and plants can yield over 150% more produce than traditional agriculture per grow area.

Aquaponics can help meet the nutrition needs of a growing population, generate local economic growth, and benefit our environment. Please ensure that the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill supports aquaponics in the same manner it supports traditional agriculture.

This letter is on behalf of the undersigned organizations and individuals:

The Aquaponics Association

Farm A

Farm B

Etc...

contact: community@aquaponicsassociation.org

