



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 was prepared by the Aquaponics Association 2018 Farm Bill Coalition, on behalf of the undersigned organizations and individuals:



- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| National | The Aquaponics Association | |
| Alabama | Alabama Acres | |
| | Southern Organics | |
| Arizona | Island Farm Living | |
| | Mountain Road Farm, Pete Cure | |
| | Juanita Colucci | |
| | Patricia D Forst | |
| | Lindon & Sherry Gareis | |
| | Sharon Swanick | |
| Arkansas | CGE Bridgetown Farm | |
| | Zac Wolfe | |
| California | Aone Development | |
| | Affinity Aquaponix, LLC | |
| | MicrogreensLA | |
| | Morning Sun Ranch Inc | |
| | Primo Aquaponics | |
| | Larry Barker | Connecticut |
| | Frank Basso | |
| | Erika Bjune | |
| | Sandra Frost | Florida |
| | Duke Gallagher | |
| | Christopher Hopkins | |
| | Paul Westberg | |
| Colorado | The Aquaponic Source | |
| | Colorado Aquaponics | |
| | Dahlia Farms and Gardens at | |
| | MHCD | |
| | The Growhaus | |
| | Northsider Farms | |
| | Openponics | |
| | Pagosa Verde LLC Geothermal | |
| | Greenhouse Partnership, Sally | |
| | High | |
| | Rainbow Waters LLC | Georgia |
| | | Edward Richard Clark |
| | | Michael Felix |
| | | Garrett Scanland |
| | | Justin Schoendube |
| | | Steven K. Shigaya |
| | | Jennifer Sullivan |
| | | Lawrence Worker |
| | | Trifecta Ecosystems, Inc., Kieran |
| | | Foran, Spencer Curry |
| | | Kenneth & Judy Handwerker |
| | | Bill Martin |
| | | Abundant Gardens |
| | | Aqua Home Gardens |
| | | The Aquaponic Doctors |
| | | Aquaponic Lynx LLC, Aleece B. |
| | | Landis |
| | | Aquaponics International Farms |
| | | Suncoast Aquaponics, Susan |
| | | McMillan |
| | | Frank Alvarez |
| | | Cara Broussard |
| | | Sheri Dunham |
| | | Timothy Hadsell |
| | | Miguel Mozdzen |
| | | Jeffrey Voelcker |
| | | Aquaplanet |

	Georgia Aquaponic Produce LLC	North Carolina	Leaf-Lovers
	HATponics, Inc		Dr. Sarah Taber
	Heavenly Host Farm		Andrew Pender
	Voodoo greens, LLC	Nevada	Honest Ponics
	Edmond Burks	New Jersey	Cranbury School
	Jared Conner		HS Farms Inc
	James W Frasche	New Mexico	Growin' the Greens
	Preston Haag		Now You Know New Mexico
	Todd Hilton		Sanctuary at ABQ
	Shannon Powell		Trisha Keefe, RN
Hawaii	Kerry Beane	New York	Edenworks
Iowa	Hungry Goat Farms, Cody Kiroff		I Grow News
	Brian Traughber		SNAP to Grow Urban Farm
Illinois	Central Illinois Aquaponics Co.		Marc Maynard
	Fruiting Mushrooms LLC		Frank Schmidt
Indiana	Frank Cole	North Carolina	Judy Joiner
	Michael B. Smith	Ohio	Clovernook Center for the Blind
Kansas	AAA Ranch		Eagle Farms, Kevin Savage
Kentucky	Sprout! Farms, LLC		Joe Farinacci
Louisiana	NoLa Aquafarms		Dante Romine
	Sharon Foreman	Oklahoma	Nycz Farm
	Kelly Gordon		The Shulamite Farmhouse
	Ken Rust		Symbiotic Aquaponic, Regina
Maine	Bentley Watergardens		Grueul Cook, Kaben & Shelby
Maryland	Wm David Wilhelm		Smallwood
Massachusetts	Justin LaCroix		Reese Hundley
	Ed Yost		Kathy White
Michigan	Jeff Anderson	Oregon	Brewfishfarm
	Michael Marsh		CannAqua Farms
Minnesota	Bright Future Farms, LLC		Flying Fish Company, Lyf
	Hunt Utilities Group LLC		Gildersleeve
	Gwendolyn Townsend		Following Fish Farms
	Melissa Voss		Frog Eagle Farms, Kathe Welch
Missouri	7Cs Winery		The Gadgeteer
	Barzo		HealthY Self Nutrition & Fitness
	Go Big or Go Home Gardens		Ingenuity Innovation Center
	The Green House Venture		Reed's Aquaponics
	Brian Bufka		Oregon Truffle Tryst Farm
	Steven Clark		Tumalo Fish & Vegetable Farms.
	Garry DeLong		Nichole Linehan
	Steve & Kim Hoffman		Jay Nunley, Ph.D
	Miles Mertens		Kate Wildrick
Mississippi	Synergy Aqua Farms	Pennsylvania	Infinite Solutions
	Michael Redd		Pittsburgh Aquaponics
Montana	Dennis Barrow	Rhode Island	Sara Fisler
	John Massengill		Mark Hengen

South Carolina

Allen’s Ridge Ranch

Blaine Mobley

Tennessee

Caney Creek Farms

Eco Rich Farms

New Providence Middle School

CDC STEM Program, Yvonne

Schlangen

The Rabbit Trail Farm

Texas

C & P Fowler Farm

Crisp Farms

Devonviolet Acres

East Texas Aquaponics

Family Aquaponics,LLC

H2O Produce

No Dirt Required Aquaponics

Texas Organic Matters, Chris

Montgomery

Carolyn Carle

Joie Curtner

Andrew Dunagan

Richard Huston

William Iker

Stephen Kennedy

Ken Mcneill

Ashley Medeiros

Geoffrey Wayne Mercer

Frank Mutchler

Douglas Preston

Stanley Rush

Leigh Sanders

Ray C. Villa

Vadim Vornik

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ideal Farm, LLC

Utah

Wasatch Highschool Farm

Virginia

Avenues Organics

Grace Aquaponics

Lake Anna Produce

Robert Evans

Scott Kivela

Teodula Pascual

Meg Stout

AC Rentals

Bugland Farm

Emerald City Aquaponics LLC

Snake River Aquaponics

The Wellness Paradise Farm

Wild Acres Farm, Brian Rusk

Ed Favilla

Nicholas Howell

John Kennedy

Don Mueller

Lisa Roberts

Anacostia Aquaponics

MKE Farmers Union

Aquidar Acuaponia Argentina

Galilea Nutrition, Jesus Eduardo Ortiz, Colombia

EcOrganic Co. LTD

Mofarm Ltd, Mauritius

Viveros el árbol, Mexico

Hawkesbury Aquaponics Project, Australia

Sarah Dadang, Banten

Paul Ladd

Aldrin Rayen

Justus Katungulu, Zambia

Contact:

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Chairman

Aquaponics Association

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