

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy,

As representatives of our nation's food supply businesses, our companies strongly support Senator Raphael Warnock's efforts to provide debt relief to Black farmers and other farmers of color.

The long history of discrimination against Black farmers and other farmers of color is well documented. For many decades, our government delayed or denied to farmers of color the same subsidies, loans, and other benefits provided to white farmers. This unfortunate history is not in dispute, and the legacy of this discrimination is reflected in ongoing disparities in these government programs and must be remedied.

Although some efforts have been made to address this long legacy of public discrimination, these efforts have not been sufficient. Many farmers of color are struggling to survive. Providing debt relief to Black farmers and other farmers of color, as proposed, would not only help alleviate the risk of foreclosure but would expand access to the public and private credit these farmers need to succeed.

Our nation owes a huge debt of gratitude to farmers of color. Despite pervasive racial discrimination, farmers of color have nourished our communities for generations. We thank Senator Warnock for his efforts to provide debt relief to these farmers, and we strongly encourage you to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Amy's Kitchen
Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.
Bolthouse Farms
Clif Bar & Company
The Coca-Cola Company
Danone North America
DelMonte Foods, Inc.
Happy Family Organics
Kellogg Company
KIND Healthy Snacks

Lundberg Family Farms
Mars
Nature's Path
Nestle USA
Organic Valley
Patagonia Provisions
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pete and Gerry's Organics
Stonyfield Organic
Unilever United States

Cc:

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
The Honorable Cory Booker
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar