

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to express our deep concern regarding the planned termination of leases for 16 Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and 34 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices. These offices play a vital role in supporting local farmers, landowners, and communities across the country.

FSA offices are critical infrastructure for producers to access farm loan programs, the farm safety net, disaster relief, and other vital services. These services are integral to supporting farmers, ranchers, and the agricultural economy. NRCS offices provide technical assistance and financial assistance for farmers voluntarily adopting conservation practices that strengthen their operations. Further, these practices benefit our ecosystems broadly by improving water quality, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, and enhancing soil health. By closing these offices, the USDA risks undermining these important goals and negatively impacting the agricultural economy across the country.

Farming is a place-based business. Farmers need services available in the counties they live in. If local offices close, producers may be forced to drive hours out of their way to access critical services and support.

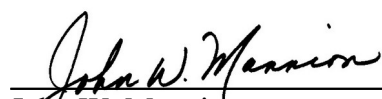
Given USDA's decision to terminate these leases, we seek clarification on the Department's plans:

- Did the USDA conduct a study on the impact on farmers of closing these offices? Does the Department intend on reopening these FSA and NRCS offices in new locations?
- If these offices are being permanently closed, has USDA complied with the requirement under the 2018 Farm Bill to provide advance notice to Congress?

We urge you to provide clarity on these questions and request a response. Additionally, we encourage you to toward maintaining these FSA and NRCS offices to ensure farmers have reliable access to the services they depend on. Through their dedicated staff, these offices are a valuable asset to our farming communities, and their permanent closure would be a significant loss.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

  
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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress

  
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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



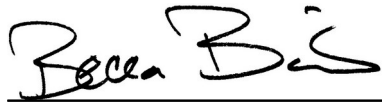
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



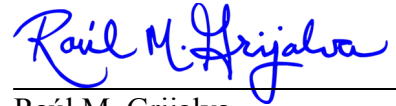
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress