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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance Statement on U.S. House Agriculture Committee Passage of Farm Bill**

**WASHINGTON, D.C** – The [Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance](http://www.farmbillalliance.org) (SCFBA), a national coalition of more than 120 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products, has issued the following statement related to the U.S. House Agriculture Committee’s passage of the Farm Bill, H.R. 2, Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, by a vote of 26-20:

“The SCFBA appreciates House Agriculture Committee Chairman Conaway for recognizing the importance of specialty crops in this initial legislation, which includes baseline funding of specialty crop programs included in the 2014 Farm Bill. However, the Alliance urges the House to enhance the bill by increasing the investment in specialty crop priorities -- such as fully funding the TASC program, increasing funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) and the Alliance’s policy recommendations throughout the bill. Specialty crop priorities are focused on programs that support a healthier America while serving as a major economic engine for the nation. Our industry is responsible for \$66 billion in farm gate value and 33 percent of farm cash receipts for crops,” said Robert Guenther, Senior Vice President, United Fresh Produce Association.

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*The **Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance** is a national coalition of more than 120 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. The Alliance was established to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans by broadening the scope of U.S. agricultural public policy. For more information, visit <http://www.farmbillalliance.org>.*