December X, 2024

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

Chair, House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

XXX House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Democratic Leader Jeffries,

The undersigned organizations and the millions of members they represent offer our strong

support for Rep. Angie Craig to be the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on

Agriculture. Rep. Craig has consistently demonstrated strong leadership in her efforts to address food insecurity, rural healthcare, farmworker protections, and environmental stewardship, both in her district and across our nation.

This leadership will be needed in the 119th Congress as Republicans in both the House and Senate will almost certainly escalate their attacks on our food assistance programs, farmworker protections, and core environmental laws that strengthen our rural communities and country. The Agriculture Committee needs a strong voice to oppose these attacks and ensure that reauthorization of a five-year Farm Bill is not commandeered by special interest that put profits over people. We believe Rep. Craig has the conviction and experience to ensure that we do not compromise the health, safety, and wellbeing of American citizens and our shared environment in pursuit of commonsense agricultural policy.

Rep. Craig’s record in Congress shows both a commitment to rural communities and an advocacy for clean air, clean water, and a stable climate for all Americans. She voted to block logging projects in the majestic Tongass National Forest and prevent taxpayer dollars from going to road construction in old-growth wilderness. She opposed rollbacks to the Endangered Species Act that would have significantly undermined the ability of expert wildlife agencies to conserve and protect listed species. She voted against attacks on methane pollution reduction from oil and gas critical to addressing climate change. She fought to prevent environmentally destructive mining companies from seizing control of our public lands. She stood firm against attempts to undermine climate investments secured as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. Considering her record, we believe that Rep. Craig will bring to the position of Ranking Member a solutions-minded approach that still safeguards our communities and natural resources.

The Republican-led Agriculture Committee has pursued a recklessly anti-environmental and anti-public health agenda. They have pursued a partisan Farm Bill that would gut food assistance programs, rollback climate-smart agricultural policies, eliminate protections from harmful pesticides, and weaken safeguards for farmworkers, endangered wildlife, and rural communities from pollution. Even as a frontline member in a rural district, Rep. Craig spoke in clear opposition to this regressive legislation.

We believe that Rep. Craig will faithfully represent the core environmental and human rights values of the Democratic Party while improving the lives of rural Americans. She has shown the conviction necessary to stand against radical anti-environmental House Republicans and would continue to do so as the next Ranking Member.

Sincerely,

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