

**Subject:** Reply from Senator Sherrod Brown  
**Date:** Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 11:44:57 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Sherrod Brown <Senator\_Brown@brown.senate.gov>  
**To:** Rex Gaylord <rgaylord@shomaisou.com>

Dear Mr. Gaylord:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill.

As the Senate works on this important legislation, I am hearing from farmers, consumers, and rural communities across Ohio about their priorities. As a Senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am fighting to: secure important wins for Ohio farmers, protect critical nutrition programs for Ohio families, tackle climate change, invest in rural communities, and support programs that will improve water quality in Lake Erie and across the state.

My priorities in the 2023 Farm Bill include protecting Lake Erie, investing in local and regional food systems, protecting nutrition assistance programs, investing in agricultural research at Ohio's colleges and universities, expanding cover crops, improving crop insurance, and investing in rural communities. This year I introduced the Local Farms and Food Act and the Strengthening Local Processing Act and will fight for their inclusion in the 2023 Farm Bill to give our farmers and communities tools to build a more resilient food supply chain.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is also a key portion of the farm bill. Too often, SNAP is a last line of defense against hunger for many Ohioans. I am determined to fight proposals to limit assistance for those who have fallen on hard times and their families. I am also working to sustain the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), which encourages SNAP clients to purchase fruits and vegetables from Ohio farmers markets and farm stands.

Farmland plays an important role in Ohio's economy - and its environment, too. I am fighting to include provisions that will protect Lake Erie and local waterways while allowing farmers to continue working their land. Throughout my career, I have supported policies to advance wildlife protections and land conservation initiatives, and I remain committed to working with my colleagues to address threats to our environment, preserve native wildlife and habitats, and safeguard our lands and waters for future generations. I have also been an advocate for environmental justice, and I will continue to fight for clean air and clean water for all Americans as long as I am in the Senate.

As the first Ohioan in 50 years to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand the importance of agriculture to communities across our state. As the Senate and the Department of Agriculture continue to develop agricultural and nutrition policies, I will keep fighting for Ohio farmers who grow crops and the consumers who eat them.

Thank you again for getting in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

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