November 17, 2026

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

Dear Leader Jeffries and Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned Ohio food and farm organizations, we write to express our strong support for Representative Shontel Brown to serve as Chairwoman of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture in the 120th Congress.

Representative Brown recognizes the breadth of the food and agriculture community and understands that strong policy comes from bringing its many perspectives together. It requires investments in our farmers and rural communities, a commitment to ensuring families can access nutritious food, and policies that support the long-term health and resilience of our food system. Throughout Representative Brown's time in Congress, she has been a steadfast champion for farmers, families, and food security, including strong support for SNAP and the critical role it plays in helping families put food on the table. She has demonstrated an ability to bring diverse voices together, build coalitions, and work toward meaningful results. Her leadership reflects an understanding that the interests of farmers, food producers, consumers, and the communities they serve are deeply connected. It is also a reflection of Ohio's leadership in the food and agriculture industry, with an agricultural landscape that spans the whole state and contributes to economies, jobs, and business growth.

As Ohio-based organizations representing a broad range of interests across the food and agriculture landscape, we believe Representative Brown is the right leader to bring these voices together and ensure they have a meaningful role in shaping the Committee's work. She has made a concerted effort to understand our priorities, visiting our operations, engaging directly with our organizations, and taking the time to learn about the issues affecting the communities we serve. She has earned the confidence of our coalition through her engagement, thoughtful leadership, and commitment to the people and communities she represents. We are confident she will provide the vision, collaborative leadership, and steady direction needed to strengthen the Committee and advance policies that benefit Ohio and the nation.

We respectfully urge you to support Representative Shontel Brown for Chairwoman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership.

Statewide Organizations

Ohio Association of Foodbanks

BIPOC Food and Farming Network

Fruit Growers Marketing Association

Ohio Craft Brewers Association

Ohio Farmers Market Network

Ohio Forestry Association

Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association

Ohio Workforce Coalition

The Hunger Network in Ohio

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

Children's Hunger Alliance

Ohio Beverage Association

Ohio Environmental Council

Ohio Farmers Union

Ohio Grocers Association

Ohio Wine Producers Association

Produce Perks Midwest

The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Regional Organizations

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers Union

Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)

Memorial Health System

SE Ohio Foodbank

Sunday Creek Horizons

University Hospitals

Appalachian Center for Economic Networks

Coalition of Rural and Small-Town Schools

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio

The Appalachian Center for Economic Networks

West Ohio Food Bank

Local Companies and Organizations

A's and O's Farm

All Farmers Matter

Croft Market

DNO Produce

Harmony Hollow Farm

I Choose Me ICME

My Grow Connect

Oak Top Farm

RevLove Farm

Schriver Organics

Shagbark Seed & Mill

Taking Back Our Youth

Trouvaille Farm

A Better You Community Resource Center

ColorBlindWork | People. Plant. Purpose.

Dave's and Lucky's Markets

Earthworks Research & Consulting LLC

Hope Connections

Logan Brothers Farms, LLC

North Union Farmers Market

Purplebrown Farm Store

Schriver Farms

Seven Seed Sowers Co-op

Sunny Glen Wellness dba Sunny Glen Garden

The Garden Sage

Woodlyn Acres Farm, LLC