*This sample letter was provided by Marge L. Kilkelly of Dragonfly Cove Farm in Dresden, Maine. Please tailor this letter to your Senators based on your background and experience with agritourism. To find contact information for your Senators, visit* [*U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S. Senators*](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)*.*

Senator *Jane Doe*
*11234 Hart* Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_

I own (farm/business) in (town). I appreciate the efforts that you have put into strengthening the rural and farm economy and want to bring to your attention a bipartisan bill H.R. 5203 AGRITOURISM Act that was introduced by Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) on August 11 and I understand that a companion bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senator Tammy Baldwin.

H.R. 5203 would create an Office of Agritourism in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to represent the interests of the farms, ranches and businesses involved in agritourism and consolidate federal resources to sustain agritourism businesses, such as loans, grants, and broadband connectivity programs.

I am asking you to strongly support including this legislation in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Agritourism is as varied as agriculture itself, from wedding venues on farms, corn mazes, pick your own, ag education programs, farm stays and farm tours.

On my (farm/ranch/business) agritourism is (activity) and generates (percentage of farm revenue/dollars). Agritourism allows us to employ (XXX FT or PT or family). Agritourism is not just an add on to our business plan, it is an integral aspect of keeping our family (farm/ranch/business) operating.

Nationally Agritourism is also an essential aspect of the Agriculture Economy- providing $1.127 billion in value and over 9 million jobs nationally.

But even more important to me is the role Agritourism plays in educating the public about the realities of agriculture. In 1862, when USDA was signed into law 90% of Americans were farmers in 2021 USDA estimates that 1.3% of the population is employed on farms. Most people today are 5 generations away from raising their own food and do not even have an oral history of their families and farming and yet every single person depends on agriculture for food, fiber, energy, open space and recreation.

We as farmers, ranchers, and rural people must constantly address misinformation about agriculture practices, waste, food costs and more. Agritourism is key to the general public understanding the economic, social and cultural value of agriculture.

Senator Baldwin is also leading an effort to create a Senate Agritourism Caucus , I urge you to join her to bring more attention to this critical work for rural America.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I am available to discuss this further with you or your staff at any time.

Sincerely,

Name
Postal Address
Phone Number