

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman  
The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

The undersigned food and agriculture trade associations respectfully urge confirmation of the Honorable Thomas Vilsack to serve as Secretary of Agriculture.

Our associations represent the vast majority of the food and agriculture sector that is responsible for roughly one-fifth of the country's economic activity, directly supporting more than 23 million jobs - constituting nearly 15 percent of total U.S. employment.

Secretary Vilsack understands and embraces as USDA's mission the advancement of U.S. food and agriculture for the benefit of all in the U.S. and countless consumers beyond our shores. We endorse the nomination of Secretary Vilsack not just because of his previous outstanding eight-year tenure in the post during the Obama Administration, but more importantly because of his vision for meeting the substantial current challenges of food and agriculture. Secretary Vilsack is ready to lead the peoples' department and American food and agriculture broadly to meet environmental challenges, enhance diversity and inclusion, strengthen food security, and build rural prosperity through expanded trade and development of the bioeconomy, all with broad consumer benefits.

Please feel free to call upon any of the undersigned associations to expand upon our rationale for supporting the nomination of Secretary Vilsack. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Retailers Association

Almond Alliance of California

American Bakers' Association

American Beekeeping Federation

American Dairy Products Institute

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition

American Seed Trade Association

American Soybean Association

American Sugar Alliance

American Wood Council

Animal Health Institute

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

California Association of Winegrape Growers

California Fresh Fruit Association

California Grain and Feed Association

California League of Food Processors

California Table Grape Commission

Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
CropLife America  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.  
Farmers for Free Trade  
Florida Tomato Exchange  
FMI - Food Industry Association  
Food Northwest  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Hop Growers of America  
Illinois Pork Producers Assoc.  
Imperial Valley Asparagus Growers Association  
Indiana Dairy Producers  
Indiana Pork  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Iowa Pork Producers Association  
Iowa State Dairy Association  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Dairy Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Leather & Hide Council of America  
Louisiana Pork Producers Association  
Meat Import Council of America, Inc.  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Apple Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Midwest Food Products Associations, Inc.  
Milk Producers Council  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Missouri Pork Association  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pecan Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
New York Pork Producers  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Carolina Pork Council  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Ohio Pork Council

Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregon Feed and Grain Association  
Organic Trade Association  
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Plant Based Products Council  
Produce Marketing Association  
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
SNAC International  
South Dakota Dairy Producers  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Sweetener Users Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
The Hardwood Federation  
Tennessee Feed and Grain Association  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Hemp Roundtable  
U.S. Wheat Associates  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Peanut Federation  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Poultry and Egg Export Council  
USA Rice Federation

Virginia Pork Council  
Washington Apple Commission  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
WineAmerica  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association