

February 8, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations representing rural America, we look forward to working with your Administration in the coming years to help ensure that all Americans face a brighter future. We also look forward to having Governor Perdue at the helm of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), working on behalf of rural America.

As you witnessed first-hand during the campaign, the issues facing rural America are no less significant than those facing urban parts of the country, but can more easily be overlooked because America's small towns and rural areas make up just 15 percent of the nation's population.

As you continue to develop the team that will assist you in leading the nation for the next four years, we respectfully request that you keep the needs of our nation's farmers, ranchers, and residents of small communities high on the priority list for your administration. Multiple federal agencies have an impact on rural areas, and coordination among those agencies is essential to ensuring that the resources of the Federal government are efficiently and effectively used.

To help ensure a focused and coordinated effort to address the needs of rural areas, we suggest a designated senior member of the White House staff and/or an Office of Rural Policy within the Executive Office of the President to focus specifically on rural issues. Such an individual or office could become an added voice to ensure that the interests of rural Americans are addressed across the highest levels of your Administration.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Sincerely,

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank  
AgriBank, FCB  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Sugar Alliance

America's SBDC  
Center for Rural Affairs  
CoBank  
COSCEA  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Fair Food Network  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Council  
Farmer Mac  
Housing Assistance Council  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)  
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Cooperative Business Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)  
National Farmers Union  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Peach Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Rural Economic Developers (NREDA)  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)  
National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC)  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Partners for Rural America  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership Inc. (RCAP)  
Select Milk Producers  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
USA Rice  
Western Peanut Growers Association

cc: The Hon. Sonny Perdue  
Reince Priebus, Chief of Staff