

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