

March 23, 2023

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

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Under Secretary of Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Under Secretary Torres Small has demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing challenges in the agricultural supply chain, fostering economic opportunities and security through rural infrastructure investments, and fighting for the needs of rural Americans. Her dedication to public service and skilled administration of USDA's Rural Development mission area makes her uniquely qualified for the role of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Under Secretary Torres Small has tirelessly served agricultural stakeholders and the American people for decades. The granddaughter of farmworkers, she spent several years as a Field Representative for Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), then a United States District Court clerk, and an attorney practicing water and natural resources law. In 2018, Torres Small was elected to the House of Representatives where she served as a Member of the House Agriculture Committee. Continuing her public service as Under Secretary of Rural Development, Torres Small guided the implementation of millions of dollars in loans and grants to strengthen the agricultural supply chain, expand broadband internet service to rural communities, and expand market opportunities for rural businesses.

We believe that agricultural stakeholders, rural communities, and the American people will be well served by Under Secretary Torres Small's service as Deputy Secretary of the USDA. We strongly urge the Committee to quickly advance Under Secretary Torres Small's nomination so she can continue her important work in this expanded capacity, particularly as the Farm Bill reauthorization process is underway.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association

American Sugar Alliance  
Animal Health Institute  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
Cargill  
CoBank

Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Danimer Scientific  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Foresight USA Inc  
Growth Energy  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Fresh Produce Association  
Leather and Hide Council of America  
Meat Import Council of America  
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance  
National Association of State Departments  
of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain & Feed Association  
National Grocers Association

National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Plant Based Products Council  
Primient  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
SNAC International  
South Carolina Peach Council  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
USA Rice  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
World Perspectives, Inc.

cc: Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture