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  
The Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Sweetener Users Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
The Hardwood Federation  
The Tennessee Feed and Grain Association  
The 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  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
WineAmerica  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association