

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman, Senate Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of the farmers, ranchers, hunters, forest owners, cooperatives, businesses, trade associations, and all other segments of the agriculture, food and nutrition, landscape, and conservation community represented by the undersigned, we write to urge your support for the expeditious confirmation of Sonny Perdue to be Secretary of Agriculture. We are looking forward to having his tested leadership and experience at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). There have been 30 Secretaries of Agriculture since the job was created in 1889, and though some were raised on a farm, only two actually lived and worked in agriculture as adults. If confirmed, Sonny Perdue will be number three.

Gov. Perdue has a proven record of effective governing and dedicated public service. Prior to his time as governor, he was a member of the Georgia State Senate for 10 years, being elected by his colleagues to serve a term as Senate President Pro Tem. As the 81<sup>st</sup> governor of Georgia, elected in 2002, he enacted meaningful ethics reform and reshaped state government. He engaged business leaders through the Commission for a New Georgia, and by 2010, Georgia was named Best Managed State in the Southeast. Governor Perdue served in 2006-2007 as Chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Given his background of growing up on a diversified row crop and dairy operation in Central Georgia, his service in the United States Air Force, and his background in founding three agribusiness firms supplying services to farmers, Gov. Perdue is eminently qualified to lead USDA. Gov. Perdue was also a practicing veterinarian, and has a deep understanding of the issues important to animal agriculture. As the former governor of a state that produces billions of dollars in food, fiber, specialty crops, nursery crops, dairy products, poultry, and livestock each year, Gov. Perdue understands the critical role of feeding our country and the world. He is also keenly aware of the importance of agriculture in powering our nation's economy, providing jobs from farm to table. Finally, Gov. Perdue has proved to be a dedicated servant of the concerns of rural America with a long history of supporting rural infrastructure, agricultural water use projects, and proper forest management. This experience, along with a personal understanding of the unique needs of rural America, will undoubtedly benefit him as head of USDA.

We appreciate your dedicated leadership to the nation's agricultural community, and look forward to working with you as Gov. Perdue's confirmation moves forward.

Sincerely,

4Earth Farms  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.  
Advance Trading Inc.  
African-American Farmers of California  
Ag Georgia Farm Credit, ACA  
AgChoice Farm Credit  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services, ACA  
AgFirst Farm Credit Bank  
AgriBank, FCB  
Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agri-Mark, Inc.  
AgStar Financial Services, ACA  
Alabama Agribusiness Council  
Alabama Cattlemen's Association  
Alabama Farmer's Federation  
Alabama Forestry Association  
Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association  
Alabama Peanut Producers Association  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
All Fresh GPS  
Allen Lund Company LLC  
Allenberg Cotton Co.  
Almond Alliance of California  
AMCOT  
American AgCredit  
American Agri-Women  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Bakers Association  
American Bankers Association  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Beverage Association  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Forest and Paper Association

American Forest Foundation  
American Forest Resource Council  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Mushroom Institute  
American National CattleWomen  
American Olive Oil Producers Association  
American Peanut Council  
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.  
American Peanut Shellers Association  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Pulse Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sesame Growers Association  
American Sheep Industry  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Wood Council  
AmericanHort  
Animal Health Institute  
Archer Daniels Midland Company  
Archery Trade Association  
Arena Packaging, LLC.  
Arizona Cattle Feeders  
Arizona Cotton Ginners Association  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arizona Grain, Inc.  
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Arkansas Rice Council  
Arkansas Rice Farmers  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
Arkansas Rice Growers Association  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
Association of Consulting Foresters

Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Attebury Grain  
Baldor Specialty Foods  
Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham & Eselgroth LLP  
Bayer  
BBC Land, LLC  
Beachner Grain, Inc.  
Belair Produce, Inc.  
BiNational Softwood Lumber Council  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Black Gold Farms  
Black Hills Forest Resource Association  
Bongards' Creameries  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bunge North America  
Cabbage, Inc.  
Caito Foods, LLC.  
Calcot  
Caledonia Farmers Elevator Co.  
California Ag Irrigation Association  
California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Bean Shippers Association  
California Cattlemen's Association  
California Cherry Export Association  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
California Forestry Association  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Giant, Inc.  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California Pear Growers Association  
California Rice Commission  
California Seed Association  
California Specialty Crops Council  
California State Beekeepers Association  
California State Floral Association  
California Strawberry Commission

California Warehouse Association  
California Wool Growers Association  
Calorie Control Council  
Campbell Global, LLC  
Canfor Southern Pine  
Cape Fear Farm Credit  
Cargill, Incorporated  
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative  
Castellini Group of Companies  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Catchmark Timber Trust, Inc.  
CGB Enterprises, Inc.  
Charles M. Farms, LLC  
Chemstar Corp.  
Choptank Transport, Inc.  
Co-Alliance  
CoBank  
COFCO Agri Ltd.  
Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Colorado Farm Bureau  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Colorado Sorghum Producers Association  
Colorado Timber Industry Association  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association  
Conservation Forestry Partners  
Cooperative Milk Producers Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Cooperative  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports  
Countryside Cooperative  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
Crop Protection Association of North Carolina  
CropLife America  
Crunch Pak  
Dairy Business Association  
Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative

Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Council  
Delta Waterfowl  
Demeter Lp  
Dole Berry Company  
Dow AgroSciences  
Ducks Unlimited  
Due South Investments, LLC  
DuPont  
Earthbound Farm  
Eastern Meat Packers Association  
Elanco Animal Health  
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Enzyme Technical Association  
Equipment Dealers Association  
Expera Specialty Solutions  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Council  
Farm Credit East  
Farm Credit of Central Florida  
Farm Credit of Florida  
Farm Credit of Northwest Florida  
Farm Credit of the Virginias  
Farm Credit Services of America  
Farm Credit West  
Farm Fresh Direct of America  
Farmer's Best International L.L.C.  
Farmers Elevator of Goodwell  
Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc.  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
Federal Forest Resource Coalition  
FFF Farms  
Field Fresh Foods  
First District Association  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Citrus Mutual

Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Forestry Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association  
Florida Peanut Producers Association  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
Florida Tomato Exchange  
Foremost Farms USA  
Forest Investment Associates  
Forest Landowners Association  
Forest Resources Association  
Forestry Association of South Carolina  
Four Seasons Produce Family of Companies  
Freedom Freight & Logistics LP  
Frey Farms  
Frieda's, Inc.  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Gavilon  
Georgia Agri-Business Council  
Georgia Agritourism Association  
Georgia Bankers Association  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation  
Georgia Forestry Association  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Green Industry Association  
Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
Georgia Pecan Growers Association  
Georgia Pork Producers Association  
Georgia Poultry Federation  
Georgia Rural Water Association  
Georgia Urban Agriculture Council  
Georgia Watermelon Association  
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association  
GeorgiaBev  
Giustina Resources  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Global Forest Partners LP  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

Green Crow  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
GreenWood Resources, Inc.  
Greenyard USA  
Greg Leger Farms, LLC  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California  
GROWMARK  
Hancock Natural Resource Group  
Hardwood Federation  
Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Hearst Forests  
Heart of Georgia Peanut and Gin Company  
Heeren LLC  
Heinzen Manufacturing International  
Houston Safari Club  
Huber Resource Corporation  
Idaho Cattle Association  
Idaho Dairymen Association  
Idaho Forest Group  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Idaho Woolgrowers Association  
Illinois Beef Association  
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association  
Illinois Green Industry Association  
Illinois Soybean Association  
Imperial Sugar Company  
Independent Bakers Association  
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas  
Indiana Beef Cattle Association  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Nursery & Landscape Association  
Indiana Sheep Association  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
Intermountain Forest Association  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Food Additives Council  
Intertribal Agriculture Council



Iowa Cattlemen's Association  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Soybean Association  
J&J Family of Farms  
J.D. Heiskell & Co.  
J.M. Longyear  
JAB Produce  
Jamestown Timberlands  
JBS USA  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Cotton Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Sheep Association  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Keweenaw Land Association, LTD  
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturer's Association  
KiVAR Chemical Technologies  
Lakeside Produce Distribution, Inc.  
Land Improvement Contractors of America  
Land O'Lakes Inc.  
Landmark Services Cooperative  
Landus Cooperative  
Leger & Son, Inc.  
Lewis Taylor Farms  
Linn & Associates  
Livestock Marketing Association  
Lone Rock Resources  
Lone Star Milk Producers  
Lotscher Agri Service Inc.  
Louis Dreyfus Company, North America  
Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Rice Advisory Committee  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Independent Rice Producers Association

Louisiana Rice Growers Association  
Louisiana Rice Mill  
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group  
Maine Arborist Association  
Maine Forest Products Council  
Maine Landscape & Nursery Association  
Mann Packing Company, Inc.  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association  
Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers  
Massachusetts Forest Alliance  
Massachusetts Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.  
Mastronardi Produce  
McEntire Produce  
Mead Johnson Nutrition  
Merrill & Ring  
Michael Cutler Company  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Agricultural Commodities  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Michigan Cattlemen's Association  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Forest Products Council  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association  
Michigan Sheep Producers Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Michigan-California Timber Company LP  
Mid-West Dairymen's Company  
Milk Producers Council  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Minnesota Grain & Feed Association  
Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association  
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association  
Minnesota Soybean Association  
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association  
Mission Produce, Inc.  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Peanut Growers Association  
Mississippi Rice Council

Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Cattlemen's Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Rice Council  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Missouri Wine and Grape Board  
Molpus Woodlands Group  
Monsanto Company  
Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Montana Wool Growers Association  
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association  
Mountaire Farms, Inc.  
Mouzin Brothers Farms, LLC  
Nagel Farm Service  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents  
National Association of Resource Conservation & Development  
Councils  
National Association of State and County Office Employees  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Automatic Merchandising Association  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Black Growers Council  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Christmas Tree Association  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners' Association  
National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Crop Insurance Services

National Farmers Union  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Lamb Feeders Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Onion Association  
National Peach Council  
National Pest Management Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Restaurant Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation  
National Watermelon Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association  
National Woodland Owners Association  
NatureFresh Farms  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
Nesei Farmers League  
Nestlé USA  
Nevada Wool Growers  
New England Vegetable & Berry Growers' Association  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation  
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association  
New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association  
New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association  
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau  
New Mexico Sorghum Association  
New Mexico Wool Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York Soybean Association

New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
Nisei Farmers League  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association  
North Bay Produce, Inc.  
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
North Carolina Potato Association  
North Carolina Sheep Producers Association  
North Carolina Soybean Association  
North Dakota Stockman's Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northern Seed Trade Association  
Northwest Dairy Association  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Northwest Grain Growers, Inc.  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Nourse Farms  
Nutrition Council of America  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association  
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association  
Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association  
Oklahoma Sorghum Association  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregon Potato Commission  
Oregon Sheep Growers Association  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Oregon Women in Timber  
Oregonians for Food & Shelter

Organic Trade Association  
Pacific Coast Fruit Company  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association  
Pacific International Marketing  
Pandol Bros., Inc.  
PennAg industries Association  
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association  
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association  
Pero Family Farms  
Pheasants Forever  
Pingree Association  
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Pollinator Partnership  
Polymer Logistics  
Pope Resources  
Port Blakely Companies  
Potandon Produce  
Potato Growers of Idaho  
Potlach Corporation  
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Premier Milk Inc.  
Premier Produce  
Pro Citrus Network, Inc.  
PRO\*ACT, LLC  
Produce Marketing Association  
Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association  
Public Lands Council  
Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Railway Tie Association  
Rayonier Inc.  
Resource Management Service, LLC  
Rice Producers of California  
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers  
Robinson Fresh  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Safari Club International

San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association  
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association  
Seald Sweet  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
Sid Wainer & Son  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Smithfield Foods  
SNAC International  
Society for Range Management  
Society of American Florists  
Society of American Foresters  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Solutions From the Land  
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Peach Council  
South Carolina Sheep Industries Association  
South Carolina Specialty Crop Growers Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Dairy Producers  
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Louisiana Rail Facility  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southeast Milk, Inc.  
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, Inc.  
Southeastern Gin and Peanut  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Crop Production Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
Southern Specialties  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Southwest Georgia Farm Credit  
Soy Transportation Coalition  
Soyfoods Association of North America  
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.  
Staplcotn  
Starker Forests, Inc.

Stewart Grain Co., Inc.  
Stimson Lumber Company  
Stratford Grain Co.  
Strube Celery and Vegetable Co.  
Sun World International  
Sunburst Farms  
Superior Pine Products Company  
Sweetener Users Association  
Swiss Valley Farms  
Syngenta North America  
Team Marketing Alliance  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Ag Industries Association  
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association  
Texas Forestry Association  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  
Texas Rice Council  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association  
Texas Sorghum Producers  
Texas Soybean Association  
Texas Vegetable Association  
The Conservation Fund  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Forestland Group  
The Langdale Company  
The Lyme Timber Company  
The Produce Mom LLC  
The Sugar Association  
The Wenger Group  
The Westervelt Company  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Tillamook County Creamery Association  
Timberland Investment Resources, LLC



Torrey Farms, Inc.  
TRC Trading Corporation  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Dry Bean Council  
U.S. Industrial Pellet Association  
U.S. Pecan Growers Council  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
U.S. Premium Beef, LLC  
U.S. Rice Producers Association  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United Poultry Growers Association  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
US Sweet Potato Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Utah Onions, Inc.  
Utah Wool Growers Association  
Valent USA Corporation  
Vermont Woodlands Association  
Vidalia Onion Business Council  
Village Farms International, Inc.  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association  
Vita Plus  
Wada Farms Potatoes  
Wagner Forest Management  
Warrior MFG LLC  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Washington Farm Bureau Federation  
Washington Forest Protection Association  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western Growers

Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western Wood Preservers Institute  
Westlake Produce Company  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Wheeler Brothers Grain Company, LLC  
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine  
Wildlife Mississippi  
Willacy Co-op  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners  
Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association  
WoodWorks - Wood Products Council  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Zeeland Farm Services  
Zia Milk Producers, Inc.