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
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