

June 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you approach the 200-day mark of your administration, we write to encourage you to move quickly to fill key appointments within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

USDA is one of the largest federal government agencies, with more than 100,000 employees across the United States and its territories. USDA is responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to agriculture, farming, forestry and food. With a struggling rural economy—which has seen a 55 percent decrease in income over the last three years—we need leaders and decision makers in place to serve farmers, ranchers and consumers.

We applaud you for picking such a strong Secretary of Agriculture in Sonny Perdue. We have the utmost faith that he will continue to do an outstanding job serving your Administration and our nation. But he can't do it alone. The absence of high-ranking officials at USDA puts our farmers and ranchers at a disadvantage. It is impossible to pilot such a large and complex agency without a team of powerful and talented people at the helm.

We urge you and your staff to move swiftly in filling out the rest of the Secretary Perdue's team so they can all work together to strengthen American agriculture.

Sincerely,

National Corn Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Pork Producers Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
USA Rice Federation
National Sorghum Producers
National Barley Growers Association
National Sunflower Association
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
National Milk Producers Federation
National Cotton Council
American Sugar Beet Association
National Farmers Union

