

July 12, 2013

Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
328-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
328-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Cochran:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for the nomination of Krysta Harden as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In her four years at the Department, Ms. Harden has demonstrated an in-depth understanding of and genuine concern for the varied interests of USDA's many constituencies. She has shown even-handed judgment in working with diverse stakeholders, and she has been an integral member of a very effective policy team at the Department.

Ms. Harden has fully justified the confidence placed in her by the Committee and the full Senate when she was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations in 2009. Her value to the Department was recognized by Secretary Vilsack when he named her as his Chief of Staff in 2011. Before joining USDA, Ms. Harden served as Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Previously, she represented the American Soybean Association in Washington and served her native state of Georgia on the staff of Congressman Charles Hatcher.

We are very pleased that the President has selected Ms. Harden to serve the Administration and USDA's many constituents in the position of Deputy Secretary, and we look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with her.

We respectfully ask that you approve the nomination of Krysta Harden for Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Sincerely yours,

Agriculture Retailers Association  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Beverage Association  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Farmland Trust

American Feed Industry Association  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Forests  
American Horse Council  
American Loggers Council  
American Meat Association  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
Audubon  
Biomass Thermal Energy Council  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
C2I, LLC  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
Center for Rural Affairs  
CoBank  
Congressional Hunger Center  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
CropLife America  
Crop Science Society of America  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ducks Unlimited  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Fair Food Network  
Farm Credit Council  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association  
Food Marketing Institute  
Food Research and Action Center  
Forest Landowners Association  
Forest Resources Association  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Poultry Federation

Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Growth Energy  
Giustina Resources  
Hancock Timber Resources Group  
Hardwood Federation  
Housing Assistance Council  
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
KCE Public Affairs Associates  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Mississippi Land Trust  
Mississippi River Trust  
Montana Logging Association  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Biodiesel Board  
National Chicken Council  
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grape Cooperative  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Rural Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Rural Water Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Woodland Owners Association  
New England Forestry Foundation  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association  
Oregon Small Woodland Association  
Pellet Fuels Institute  
Plum Creek

Pollinator Partnership  
Potlatch  
Produce Marketing Association  
Rain and Hail, LLC  
Rayonier  
Renewable Fuels Association  
Resource Management Service, LLC  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Snack Foods Association  
Society of American Florists  
Society of American Foresters  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Sunkist Growers  
Supporters of Agricultural Research  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Texas Forestry Association  
The Lyme Timber Company  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
Timberland Investment Resources, LLC  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
US Apple Association  
US Canola Association  
US Cattlemen's Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
US Rice Producers Association  
USA Rice Federation  
Vermont Woodlands Association  
Virginia Forest Products Association  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Washington Forest Protection Association  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Weyerhaeuser  
Wildlife Mississippi

cc. Members, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, United States Senate