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
Nomination of Krysta Harden

- 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 Producers 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
Nomination of Krysta Harden

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