November 16, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

We write to express our fervent support for Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, who has been nominated by President Biden to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

As the Administrator for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Acting Deputy Under Secretary for REE, Acting USDA Chief Scientist, and former Acting Director for USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Jacobs-Young has the experience and scientific expertise to lead U.S. research, education, and economics into a new era of innovation.

Dr. Jacobs-Young understands the immense challenges facing research, education, and the Extension enterprise, the envy of the world. As the Under Secretary for the REE Mission Area, Dr. Jacobs-Young will bring exceptional qualifications, including strengthening ARS, where she led initiatives in bioenergy, agroecosystems, livestock and specialty crops, as well as climate and nutrition research. During her tenure at USDA, she has worked tirelessly to prioritize investments and optimize outcomes.
As a nationally recognized leader of agricultural research, education, Extension, and innovation, Dr. Jacobs-Young is the ideal nominee to lead the REE mission area. We wholly endorse her for Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

African Food Revolution

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association

Agricultural Retailers Association

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Farmland Trust

American Feed Industry Association

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Malting Barley Association

American Mushroom Institute

American Pulse Association

American Phytopathological Society

American Seed Trade Association
American Society for Horticultural Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Soybean Association
AmericanHort
Animal Health Institute
Aquatic Plant Management Society
ASCC-ACNR (Land Grant Program)
Association of 1890 Research Directors
Association of Northeast Extension Directors
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Board on Agriculture Assembly
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Corn Refiners Association
Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
National Barley Growers Association

National Barley Improvement Committee

National Bison Association

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association

National Center for Appropriate Technology

National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research

National Cotton Council

National Grain and Feed Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Pork Producers Council

National Sorghum Producers

National Sunflower Association

National Turfgrass Federation

NC State University

North American Meat Institute

North American Millers’ Association

North Carolina A&T State University

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Oklahoma State University Agriculture
Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Phytobiomes Alliance
Plant Based Products Council
Produce Marketing Association
Rochester Institute of Technology
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota State University
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M AgriLife
The University of Tennessee
Tufts University
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Fresh Produce Association

University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources

University of Florida

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council

USA Rice

Washington State University

Weed Science Society of America

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Western Growers