

March 3, 2022

William Hohenstein
Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Policy
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250
ccpooce@usda.gov

RE: Request for Extension of the Application Deadline for “Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.”

Dear Director Hohenstein,

The undersigned organizations request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) extend both associated deadlines for the “Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities” by thirty (30) days.

We are grateful for the Department’s work to partner through pilot projects intended to deploy climate-smart practices on working lands in a voluntary, incentive-based manner. Accordingly, our goal is for USDA to receive the highest quality and most impactful applications for the “Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.” However, with roughly an eight-week turnaround time from the announcement until the deadline for the first-round funding, there are challenges in compiling the necessary details required to produce high-quality applications. Additional time will allow for a more diverse representation of entities to apply while simultaneously increasing the quality of the applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Gihorski, Associate Director of Public Policy, NASDA at Zach.gihorski@nasda.org. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Biogas Council
American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)
American Feed Industry Association (AFIA)
American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

California Farm Bureau
Colorado Farm Bureau
Corn Refiners Association (CRA)
Ducks Unlimited
Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC)
Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
Farm Credit Council
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Illinois Farm Bureau
Indiana Farm Bureau
International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA)
Michigan Farm Bureau
Minnesota Farm Bureau
National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO)
National Association of Forest Resource Programs
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
National Farmers Union (NFU)
National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF)
National Pork Producers Council (NPPC)
National Potato Council
New York Farm Bureau
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Pollinator Partnership
Public Lands Council (PLC)
Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE)
The Fertilizer Institute (TFI)
The National Grange
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
USA Rice Federation

CC: Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary, Farm Production and Conservation