

December 23, 2020

Mr. Robert Bonnie, Team Lead  
President-Elect Biden USDA Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Robert:

The Agricultural CEO Council greatly appreciates the numerous opportunities we have had as a group, and individually, to visit with you and the other members of the USDA transition team. Your willingness to discuss our policy priorities bodes well for the relationship we seek to develop with the incoming Biden Administration.


While the organizations we represent have always enjoyed positive and productive relationships with the USDA, the food and agriculture sector has often been challenged by the actions of other departments and agencies. In the past, our organizations have supported executive and legislative actions to formalize the relationships between USDA and its sister agencies through the development of agriculture liaison positions. Examples of these positions include the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (7 U.S. Code § 7653); the administrative appointment of an Agricultural Advisor to the EPA Administrator; the position of a Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture (7 U.S. Code § 1736); and the position of Special Negotiator for Agriculture and Food Policy with the rank of ambassador within the Office of the United States Trade Representative (19 U.S. Code § 2171).

Each of these positions provide an opportunity for the voices of the food and agriculture sector to be amplified within the administration, as well as to leverage the efforts of the Secretary of Agriculture to advance policies that facilitate our continued production of safe, abundant, and affordable food and fiber.


In our discussions with you and your colleagues, we have advocated for continuing improvements in the relationships between USDA and other federal agencies. We ask that the transition team consider our recommendation and work to formalize agricultural liaison positions within agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Transportation, Federal Communications Commission, Department of Energy, Department of State, and the Department of Interior.

Thank you again for your dedication. We look forward to continued dialogue on these and other vital issues.

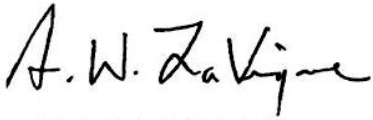
Sincerely,



Daren Coppock  
President & CEO  
**Agricultural Retailers Association**



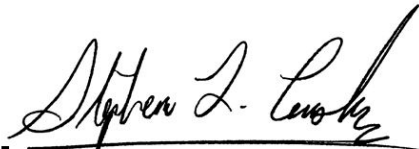
Zippy Duvall  
President  
**American Farm Bureau Federation**



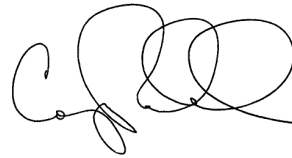
Andy LaVigne  
President & CEO  
**American Seed Trade Association**



Todd Van Hoose  
President & CEO  
**Farm Credit Council**



Steve Censky  
CEO  
**American Soybean Association**



Corey Rosenbusch  
President & CEO  
**The Fertilizer Institute**



Luther Markwart  
Executive Vice President  
**American Sugarbeet Association**




Barb Glenn  
CEO  
**National Association of State  
Departments of Agriculture**




Dana O'Brien  
Executive Vice President  
**Biotechnology Innovation Organization**



Chandler Goule  
CEO  
**National Association of Wheat Growers**



Chris Novak  
President & CEO  
**CropLife America**



Colin Woodall  
CEO  
**National Cattlemen's Beef Association**



Jon Doggett  
CEO  
**National Corn Growers Association**



Neil Dierks  
CEO  
**National Pork Producers Association**



Gary Adams  
President & CEO  
**National Cotton Council**



Tim Lust  
CEO  
**National Sorghum Producers**



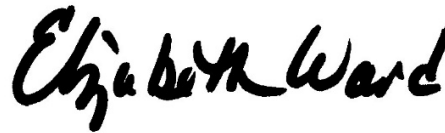
Chuck Conner  
President & CEO  
**National Council of Farmer Cooperatives**



Tom Stenzel  
President & CEO  
**United Fresh Produce Association**



Rob Larew  
President  
**National Farmers Union**



Betsey Ward  
President & CEO  
**USA Rice Federation**



Jim Mulhern  
President & CEO  
**National Milk Producers Federation**