



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

NASDA strongly supports the nomination of Under Secretary of Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Under Secretary Torres Small has demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing challenges in the agricultural supply chain, fostering economic opportunities and security through rural infrastructure investments, and fighting for the needs of rural Americans. Her experience as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and her perspective on state and local issues as a former U.S. representative for New Mexico's 2nd congressional district makes her uniquely qualified for the role of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Our nation is facing considerable challenges within the supply chain, inflation, failing infrastructure, climate, diversity and inclusion, trade, workforce, and many others. The USDA needs knowledgeable and experienced leaders at the helm to navigate through these challenges and implement bipartisan solutions.

NASDA supports the nomination of Under Secretary of Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small and asks the Senate to quickly advance her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted McKinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Ted McKinney  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry