

September 14, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Members of the Committee:

The undersigned members of the production agriculture community endorse both Bill Northey for USDA Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation and Gregory Ibach as USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Bill began farming with his grandfather after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Business. As Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill committed to traveling to each of Iowa's counties to speak with the rural and urban communities. He is a fourth generation farmer, giving him unique insights into the needs of farmers across the country and making him a particularly worthy candidate for this post.

Greg holds a degree in agricultural economics and animal sciences from the University of Nebraska. He is the director and operator of a cow, calf, and grain operation as well as the Nebraska Director of Agriculture. The agencies within the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area are critically important to ensuring effective marketing and oversight of agricultural products, and Greg's background will enable him to be an effective leader of those agencies.

We respectfully request that you expeditiously consider these nominations and advance them to the full Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of Crop Insurers
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
CropLife America
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Peach Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Society for Range Management
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America
USA Rice
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Sweet Potato Council
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry