

January 28, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Thomas Carper

Dear Chairman Barrasso & Ranking Member Carper,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of Andrew Wheeler to be the next permanent Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We ask the Environment and Public Works Committee to move swiftly to confirm his nomination.

Growing crops, producing livestock and managing forests are challenging ways to make a living with a broad range of uncertainties including new and ever evolving pests and pathogens, unpredictable weather events and changing market dynamics. Farmers, livestock producers and foresters need a regulatory system that allows them to respond to these challenges and mitigate the risks that are inherent to agriculture. EPA has a significant role in approving the tools, innovations and mitigations that growers and livestock producers need to respond to the inherent uncertainties. The approval of innovative practices and tools require a rigorous assessment and evaluation by the EPA and must be overseen by an Administrator capable of leading the Agency and its staff in pursuit of assessments and decisions based in sound and reproducible science.

Fortunately, Mr. Wheeler is eminently qualified for the role of Administrator and has exhibited so during his time as the Acting Administrator. His previous experience as a career employee of EPA and time spent as staff director and legal counsel of the Senate committee with the most expansive jurisdiction over EPA have undoubtedly prepared him for the broad and complex regulatory obligations of the Agency.

It is hard to imagine a more qualified individual for the role of EPA Administrator and we respectfully request that the Committee move to confirm his nomination so that he may be considered by the full Senate at the earliest date possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
AMCOT
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Sesame Growers Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
American Wood Council
AmericanHort
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Calcot
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Specialty Crops Council
California Wool Growers Association
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative
Cherry Marketing Institute
Colorado Sorghum Producers Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology
Delta Council
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Georgia Agri-Business Council
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Georgia Farm Bureau
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Pest Management Association
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation

New Mexico Sorghum Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association
Oklahoma Sorghum Association
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Peach Council
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Staplcotn
Supreme Rice Mill
Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Grain Sorghum Association
TRC Trading
United Egg Producers
US Apple Association
US Rice Producers Association
USA Rice Federation
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association