

March 21, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The undersigned organizations write to support the timely confirmation of Richard Fordyce to serve as the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC).

We greatly appreciate the U.S. Senate's bipartisan confirmation of USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins last month. As you know, USDA's undersecretaries manage significant offices, programs, and staff critical to advancing the department's missions related to farmer safety net programs, trade policy, food safety, conservation, crop insurance, forests, and other vital areas. FPAC's extensive mission includes administering critical farm loan, disaster assistance, safety net, risk management, and conservation programs.

Mr. Fordyce's qualifications and prior experience as a farmer, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency, Director of Missouri's Department of Agriculture, and Chair of the Missouri State Soil & Water Districts Commission have prepared him to be very effective in leading FPAC's mission to serve our nation's farmers and ranchers and effectively administer commodity, conservation, crop insurance, and additional programs that they depend on.

We acknowledge the challenges associated with vetting, holding confirmation hearings for, and securing floor time to vote on USDA nominees. As you are aware, farmers nationwide are struggling with low commodity prices while input costs remain at or near record-high levels. America's farmers and rural communities depend on the effective administration of USDA's FPAC programs. We urge you to prioritize the consideration and confirmation of Richard Fordyce to provide FPAC with the leadership required to address our country's wavering farm economy and fulfill the agency's vital missions.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support our country's producers and agricultural communities.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Biogas Council
American Bird Conservancy
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest Foundation
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Association of Conservation Executive Directors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
ClearPath Action
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Farm Credit Council
International Certified Crop Advisers
International Fresh Produce Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Conservation District Employees Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Wild Turkey Federation
Pheasants Forever
Pollinator Partnership
Quail Forever
Soil Science Society of America
The Conservation Fund
The Fertilizer Institute
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
USA Rice

State and Regional Organizations:

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Arkansas Rice
Arkansas Soybean Association
Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Rice Commission
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Delaware Association of Conservation Districts
Florida Rice Growers
Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
Georgia-Florida Soybean Association
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group
Malpai Borderlands Group
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
Michigan Soybean Association
Mid Atlantic Soybean Association
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Rice Council
Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Missouri Rice Council
Missouri Soybean Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
North Carolina Agribusiness Council
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts
South Dakota Soybean Association
Southern Crop Production Association

Texas Grain & Feed Association
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group
Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts