

February 11, 2021

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

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

Dear Senators Stabenow and Boozman:

We write to you in strong support of President Biden's nomination of Jewel Bronaugh, PhD to serve as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and ask that you quickly approve her nomination. As leaders of the nation's food and agricultural organizations, we work closely with the senior leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in support of efficient and effective administration of food and agricultural programs and have consistently advocated for the appointment of highly qualified candidates to serve in these critical positions.

Dr. Bronaugh has spent her entire career in agriculture. In Dr. Bronaugh's service as a Cooperative Extension Specialist, university dean, USDA-FSA State Executive Director, and most recently as the 16th Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, she has committed herself to fair and equitable administration of the laws and policies within her areas of responsibility. Noting Dr. Bronaugh's exceptional passion and perspective, we are confident that she will provide outstanding leadership in service to our nation as USDA's Deputy Secretary.

Our nation is facing considerable challenges with regard to pandemic response, failing infrastructure, climate, diversity and inclusion, trade, immigration, and many others. The USDA needs knowledgeable and experienced leaders at the helm to navigate through these challenges and to implement bipartisan solutions.

We are grateful that President Biden has moved quickly to fill these senior positions with people of Dr. Bronaugh's caliber and ask that the Senate do likewise.

Sincerely,

Almond Alliance of California

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and  
Growers Coalition

American Seed Trade Association

American Sesame Growers Association

American Soybean Association

Animal Health Institute

Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable  
Growers, Inc.

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

California Farm Bureau Federation

California Grain and Feed Association

CoBank  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America  
Dairy Business Association  
FMI Food Industry Association  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
Leather and Hide Council of America  
Meat Import Council of America  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
National Association of State Departments of  
Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Carolina Potato Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association

Organic Trade Association  
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.  
Produce Marketing Association  
Sweetener Users Association  
The Hardwood Federation  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Grains Council  
United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Rice  
Vote Hemp  
Washington State Potato Commission  
WineAmerica  
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers  
Association