

Individually addressed to all members of the Senate Finance Committee

January 10, 2014

Dear Senator:

The undersigned food and agricultural organizations and companies strongly support the confirmation of Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Darci Vetter as Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

The position of Chief Agricultural Negotiator with the rank of ambassador was created in 1997 by Congress for the express purpose of ensuring that U.S. agriculture is fully represented in trade negotiations at the highest possible level. U.S. agricultural exports are valued at near \$140 billion for 2013 and agriculture remains one of the few sectors in the overall economy that has shown a positive trade balance for decades. The most recent figures place this value at or above \$30 billion, making the role of the Chief Agricultural Negotiator as one of the most important in the entire Office of the USTR.

Deputy Under Secretary Vetter brings a wealth of well-rounded background expertise. She has already had over six years of experience at USTR, dealing with implementation of various provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement. She has also had extensive experience working for the Senate Finance Committee, giving her a sound understanding of the importance as well as the workings of Congress. Her most recent experience within the U.S. Department of Agriculture has also given her direct exposure to the workings of many of the critical programs related to trade currently offered by the federal government as well as the numerous trade associations involved in helping to stimulate agricultural trade.

We believe Deputy Under Secretary Vetter is an exceptional selection to fill the role of agricultural ambassador and we urge her swift confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Global Food Security  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Fruit and Vegetable Processors and Growers Coalition  
AmericanHort  
American Meat Institute  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Peanut Council

American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
Animal Health Institute  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Blue Diamond Growers  
California Canning Peach Association  
California Cherry Export Association  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
California Pear Growers  
California Rice Commission  
California Table Grape Commission  
California Tomato Farmers  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
Cheese Importers Association of America  
CoBank  
Corn Refiners Association  
CropLife America  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Emergency Committee for American Trade  
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Land O'Lakes  
Meat Import Council of America, Inc.  
National Association for Food and Agricultural Research  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Biodiesel Board  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
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 Renderers Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Meat Association  
North American Millers' Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Organic Trade Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Produce Marketing Association  
Snack Food Association  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation  
Southern United States Trade Association  
Sunkist Growers  
Sweetener Users Association  
The Fertilizer Institute

United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
US Cattlemen's Association  
US Rice Producers Association  
  
US Canola Association  
  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Meat Export Federation  
  
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
U.S. Wheat Associates  
  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
  
USA Rice Federation  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
Western Growers  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
  
Wine Institute