

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