

Dear President Trump and Vice-President Pence:

The U.S. food and agricultural sector congratulates you both on the successful outcome of the election and your inauguration. We look forward to working with your Administration to create new jobs and spur economic growth for all Americans.

Economic growth in America's heartland is inextricably linked to the long-established productivity and growing success of U.S. food and agriculture, which is an American success story. Our sector employs millions of hard working Americans, has improved the nutrition and economic wellbeing of generations of American families and is one of our nation's most efficient and competitive industries. The food and agricultural industry from farm to fork employs more than 15 million Americans. The U.S. food and beverage industry alone represents 12 percent of all U.S. manufacturing jobs, making it the largest employer in the manufacturing sector.

America's food and agriculture sector is poised to grow internationally, building upon its well-deserved reputation for high quality products, trusted brands and continual innovation. However, our ability to continue to create jobs and support economic growth in rural America depends on maintaining and increasing access to markets outside the United States through existing and future trade agreements. With more than 95% of our customers living outside our borders, expanding access to international markets - including in growing regions in the Asia Pacific - is essential for our future success.

The Asia-Pacific region is the world's largest market for food and agriculture, and will grow rapidly in the years ahead. By reducing and eliminating tariffs and other restrictive agricultural policies in this region, we will help American workers compete and enable them to supply Asian markets with high-quality food and agricultural goods.

We hope your Administration will create new opportunities for our sector by advancing U.S. economic interests in this critical region and responding to the Asia-only regional trade agreements being negotiated by our competitors. While many in our sector are strongly supportive of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we also see scope for improvements that can build upon the valuable aspects of the TPP. We welcome an opportunity to work with your Administration to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers, processors and food companies do not fall behind our competitors in this vitally important economic region.

We are proud of our ability to create the safest, most innovative, abundant, and affordable food supply in the world, and the economic benefits and job creation our sector brings to our nation. We look forward to working with your team to preserve and expand upon the gains our sector has already achieved by promoting U.S. food and agriculture at home and abroad.