



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

September 5, 2025

THE HONORABLE JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules
United States House of Representatives
H-152, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member McGovern,

Thank you for your July 28, 2025, letter regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) planned reorganization efforts. The Department is dedicated to refocusing its core operations to better align with its founding mission of supporting American farming, ranching, and forestry. I appreciate your feedback during this process.

Secretary Brooke Rollins made it clear the Department will be transparent and use a common-sense process in this effort. The Secretary also directed me, in Secretarial Memorandum SM 1078-015,¹ ("Secretary's Memorandum") to lead the implementation of the USDA Reorganization Plan, and where appropriate, make changes or adjustments to the Plan.

As I stated before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry at the end of July, the Secretary's Memorandum is the first step, not the final step, in this process. On August 1, USDA announced a 30-day public comment period for stakeholders to provide feedback on the Department's planned reorganization efforts, which was recently extended to September 30. All stakeholders – including USDA employees, Capitol Hill offices, and members of the agricultural community – are encouraged to share their input during the open comment period.

Many of your questions have been addressed by my responses to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry's "Questions for the Record." A copy is attached for your

¹ Secretarial Memorandum SM 1078-015 (July 24, 2025), available here: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/sm-1078-015.pdf>.

convenience. Meanwhile, I continue to meet with and consult Members of Congress on the Department's planned reorganization efforts. I have also been traveling and meeting with stakeholders around the country.

Thank you, again, for your letter and commitment to agricultural stakeholders. Please note your letter will be included as an official comment. If you have further questions, please contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. Please also note, a copy of this response letter has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,



Stephen Alexander Vaden
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure