



STATE OF IOWA
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Agriculture's ongoing reorganization efforts and the opportunities they present to save taxpayer dollars, eliminate unnecessary layers of bureaucracy, and bring USDA closer to the farmers and communities it was created to serve.

When USDA announced its plan to relocate a portion of Agency headquarters and National Capital Region staff, I began advocating for Iowa as a commonsense option. In April of this year, I was glad to hear that Iowa was selected to be a part of this plan. Specifically, the state looks forward to welcoming the new National Food Safety Center in Urbandale, which will become the agency's largest office in the country with approximately 200 employees. These 200 jobs represent an estimated \$25 million in economic impact, providing a significant boost to local communities and businesses. In Ames, USDA will invest \$12 million to design a new National Plant Germplasm System Centralized Distribution Center. Across the state, nearly \$9.5 million in research through the Agricultural Research Service is expected to be reassigned to existing facilities.

The relocation of these services and investments will not only better serve the agriculture industry but also support Iowa's local economy. I commend you for pursuing a reorganization that prioritizes efficiency, transparency, and collaboration. Iowa continues to stand ready to welcome new USDA staff to our great state as these efforts move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa