



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

February 20, 2026

THE HONORABLE CLAY HIGGINS
United State House of Representatives
572 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Higgins,

Thank you for your letter, co-signed by Governor Jeff Landry, supporting the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed Reorganization Plan and potential hub locations. I appreciate your recognition of the need to decentralize the Department to better serve American agricultural producers and foresters across the Nation.

As you may have seen, the Department received a high volume of feedback on the proposed Plan and transparently posted online a summary of the public comments on USDA's Reorganization webpage.¹ The Department took note of your feedback regarding Mid- and Deep-South locations of the country, and our goal is to ensure agricultural producers and foresters have greater access to USDA. Your feedback is integral to the final Reorganization Plan.

The People's Department appreciates your continued support and welcomes any additional suggestions you may have during these final stages. I value lawmakers' perspectives, particularly given you know your State best.

Thank you, again, for sharing your perspectives on how to streamline and make USDA more efficient and better positioned to support American producers and foresters. The Department's Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) remains available to you as a resource, and your staff can reach OCR at (202) 720-7095 or at ocr@usda.gov. A copy of this letter has been sent to Governor Landry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Alexander Vaden".

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

CC: The Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor, State of Louisiana

¹ Available at: <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/reorganization>.