



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

December 4, 2025

THE HONORABLE AMY KLOBUCHAR
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Klobuchar,

On July 24, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a Department Reorganization Plan focused on aligning the workforce with its financial resources and priorities, relocating USDA resources outside of the National Capital Region and closer to customers, eliminating management bureaucracy, and consolidating support functions. On August 1, 2025, Secretary Rollins announced a 30-day public comment period for stakeholders – including employees, Members of Congress, and agricultural and nutrition partners – to provide feedback on the Department's reorganization plan. The Department subsequently extended the comment period to September 30, 2025, to afford all interested parties additional time to prepare information and submit comments.

Regarding union involvement in USDA's reorganization, the Department is committed to complying with current Federal labor laws, rules, and regulations. In accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. § 7113(b), USDA provided national consultation rights notice of the Reorganization Plan to both the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Federation of Federal Employees. USDA intends to follow Federal labor relations laws, rules, and regulations with respect to recognized labor unions representing those bargaining unit employees affected by the Plan.

The Department remains committed to its employees and the American people and values the perspective of all stakeholders to ensure USDA is best positioned to serve America's farmers, ranchers, producers, foresters, and rural communities. If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. A copy of this letter has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Alexander Vaden", is positioned above the printed name.

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