Dear Senator:

The U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade welcomes the President’s nomination of Stephen Censky to be Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our organizations strongly endorse his nomination and respectfully request expeditious confirmation of his candidacy.

The U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (Dialogue) is an inclusive, broad-based forum made up of over 200 organizations representing the entire food and agriculture value chain. The Dialogue works to promote industry collaboration and engagement in constructive and proactive efforts to support the expansion of the U.S. food and agricultural trade around the globe.

Mr. Censky is uniquely qualified to hold the post of Deputy Secretary. His upbringing on a corn, soybean and livestock farm in Minnesota instilled in him the value of hard work, commitment and the importance of producing high quality products to enable Americans to enjoy the safest, most abundant and affordable food supply in the world. His deep understanding of production agriculture, the nation’s food system, regulatory requirements, science-based agricultural innovations and technologies, international trade rules, the global supply chain and consumer interests have given him the breadth of knowledge that will be instrumental in his role as Deputy Secretary.

Mr. Censky has dedicated his career to further advancing our sector, strengthening food and agricultural policies to the benefit of all Americans, and ensuring our industries’ access to the global economy. His longstanding leadership in removing trade barriers, negotiating market access openings in foreign markets and resolving complex trade matters affecting agricultural and food interests will be instrumental in growing our sector and creating American jobs. He is dedicated to ensuring a fair and level playing field for the food and agricultural sector and American workers.

During his tenure as Chief Executive Officer of the American Soybean Association, the farm gate value of the U.S. soybeans crop nearly tripled in value as a result of increased access to foreign markets and new uses of soybeans to enable American consumers to enjoy high value, protein-rich options in their diets. His career in the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, including as its Administrator, demonstrated his ability to negotiate intractable issues with foreign governments in a manner that balanced the interests of all American stakeholders while ensuring that trade rules were enforced for the benefit of American workers, farmers, processors and agribusinesses. The ability to access new markets for our products and address outstanding issues currently affecting international trade in our products is now more important than ever.

Our organizations applaud the President’s nomination of Mr. Censky to be Deputy Secretary and look forward to his prompt confirmation to enable him to begin serving on behalf of American interests and addressing priority issues for all of food and agriculture.

Sincerely,

AgMotion, Inc.

Ag Partners, LLC

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Almond Alliance of California
AMCOT
American Bakers Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Peanut Council
American Peanut Manufacturers, Inc.
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Attebury Grain, LLC
Blue Diamond Growers
Bunge North America, Inc.
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Grain and Feed Association
Calorie Control Council
Cargill, Incorporated
CGB Enterprises, Inc.
CHS, Inc.
CoBank
CoMark Equity Alliance, LLC
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Crossroads Cooperative
Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative (DBMMC)
Demeter Lp
Dow AgriSciences
DuPont
Form-A-Feed, Inc.
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Food Marketing Institute
Gavilon Grain
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Grocery Manufacturers Association
GROWMARK, Inc.
Idaho Potato Commission
Infant Nutrition Council of America
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Additives Council
J.D. Heiskell & Co.
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Livestock Marketing Association
Maplehurst Farms, Inc.
Mead Johnson Nutrition
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Agricultural Commodities
Michigan Bean Shippers
Milbank Mills, Inc.
Milk Specialties Global
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Nagel Farm Service
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Cotton Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Fisheries Institute
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Millers Association
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Pet Food Institute
Philip Morris International
Pro Cooperative
Produce Marketing Association
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
SNAC International
South Dakota Grain and Feed Association
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Stratford Grain Co.
Sweetener Users Association
Team Marketing Alliance
United Dairymen of Arizona
U.S. Apple Association
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
USA Rice
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
Western Peanut Growers Association
William James and Associates, LLC
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
World Perspectives, Inc.