January 31, 2018

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations and agri-business companies, which represent the diverse food and agricultural sector, urge prompt confirmation of the pending nominees for positions within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR): Mr. Gregg Doud as Chief Agricultural Negotiator, the Honorable Dennis Shea, as Deputy USTR (Geneva) and Mr. C. J. Mahoney, as Deputy USTR (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere).

Thanks to robust trade policies and our industry’s efficient and innovative nature, U.S. food and agricultural exports have produced a trade surplus for nearly fifty years. Consistent growth over this period has resulted in over $152 billion worth of exports, creating over $193 billion in additional U.S. economic activity in 2016. These growing exports are vital to the U.S. economy, supporting more than 43 million jobs from coast-to-coast.

Today, the trade agenda is full. From modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) to engaging at the World Trade Organization (WTO), having strong performers in all of the key trade positions is critical to advancing America’s economic interests.

Please confirm Messrs. Doud, Shea and Mahoney as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Attebury Grain
Blue Diamond Growers
Bondurant Crop Service
California Grain and Feed Association
Campbell Soup Company
CHS Inc.
Louis Dreyfus Company, North America
Maginnis Associates, LLC
Mead Johnson Nutrition
Meat Import Council of America
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Inc.
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers’ Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Pet Food Institute
Philip Morris International
Smithfield Foods
SNAC International
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Stratford Grain Co.
Sweetener Users Association
Team Marketing Alliance
Texas Grain and Feed Association
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Fresh Produce Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
USA Poultry and Egg Export Council
USA Rice
Western Peanut Growers Association
WineAmerica
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
World Perspectives, Inc.