

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1504

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our nation's farmers and producers, we write urging the Administration to quickly nominate a qualified individual to the positions of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and a new Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). It is imperative for our agricultural competitiveness for these positions to be promptly filled. These nominations are essential to our agriculture industry which is forecasted to export a record \$183.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2022.¹

The United States consistently ranks as one of the world's top producers of various agricultural commodities, such as corn, wheat, milk, and soybeans. To maintain its standing as a global leader, we must prioritize nominating individuals who represent U.S. agriculture at the international level. We were glad to hear the Administration is "focused on creating new opportunities for American agriculture," but have doubts considering its failure to fill these essential agriculture positions.² We were happy to see the USDA is actively conducting trade missions, like its recent trip to the United Arab Emirates, but we fear that our farmers and producers are not being fully represented without a nominated Under Secretary. Our concerns grew last week, after four new trade missions were announced without any recognition of the need to fill these positions.³

The Under Secretary is delegated the responsibility to advance U.S. agricultural interests through trade and foreign policy in coordination with other Federal agencies, such as the USTR. A successful Under Secretary is crucial to American trade and the United States' access to new markets.

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/international-markets-u-s-trade/u-s-agricultural-trade/outlook-for-u-s-agricultural-trade/>

² <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2022/fact-sheet-ustr-releases-2022-trade-policy-agenda-and-2021-annual-report>

³ [USDA Announces Additional International Trade Missions for 2022 | USDA Foreign Agricultural Service](#)

As you are well aware, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has greatly impacted global agriculture markets. Ukraine is an abundant producer of agricultural commodities and maintains a critical port for trade. We expect these disruptions will continue to impact markets, as well as create food security challenges in many parts of the world. It is critical that you nominate an Under Secretary to analyze market conditions and administer USDA's global food security programs.

A successful Chief Agriculture Negotiator will ensure that America is a leader during all international agriculture discussions. Having a Chief Agriculture Negotiator who will champion America's many farmers and ranchers by providing them a voice in all trade conversations is a simple ask for those who feed their country. We encourage you to act quickly to nominate a Chief Agriculture Negotiator.

After 15 months in office, we remain frustrated that the Biden administration has yet to prioritize these positions. Our farmers and producers are hard at work to grow an abundant crop for the benefit of many. We urge you to promptly nominate individuals to represent them. We look forward to receiving an update with your plans to nominate individuals to these positions. We ask for a response by no later than May 1st, 2022.

Sincerely,



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



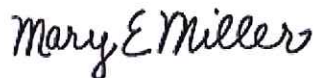
Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



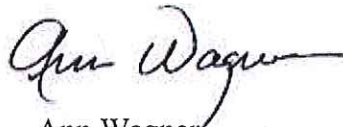
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



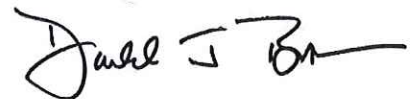
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Mariannette J. Miller Meeks

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress

John W. Rose

John Rose
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Tom Emmer

Tom Emmer
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Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell

Yvette Herrell
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Dusty Johnson

Dusty Johnson
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Ted Budd
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Rick W. Allen
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Sam Graves

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Ashley Hinson

Ashley Hinson
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James R. Baird

James R. Baird
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Bruce Westerman

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress

Ben Cline

Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow

Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs

Member of Congress