

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to express our strong support for the Senate Committee on Agriculture's unanimously bipartisan vote to confirm the nomination of Under Secretary of Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and urge the Senate to swiftly call a vote for the position.

This confirmation will be a well-deserved reflection of Under Secretary Torres Small's commitment to rural Americans, not only through her administration of USDA's Rural Development mission, but through her work to improve economic outcomes by addressing challenges within the agricultural supply chain and the country's infrastructure.

Torres Small's service to New Mexico's Second Congressional district as a Member of Congress serving on the House Agriculture Committee, her time as Under Secretary, and her deep personal connection to agriculture as the granddaughter of farmworkers, underscore her vital work for the rural communities and agricultural and conservation stakeholders continuing to navigate the challenges of America today.

We believe the American people will be best served by Under Secretary Torres Small in the role of Deputy Secretary of the USDA and call on the Senate's swift completion of the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Energy Coalition
Alliance to End Hunger
American Biogas Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Association
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Animal Health Institute
Aspen Community Strategies Group
California Canning Peach Association
California Citrus Mutual
California Prune Board
California Prune Board
Cargill
Center for Rural Strategies
Center on Rural Innovation (CORI)
CoBank
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Distributed Wind Energy Association
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Farm Credit Council
Feeding America
Florida Sugar Cane League
Geno
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
Growth Energy
International Dairy Foods Association
International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
Land O'Lakes Inc.
MAZON

Mill

National Association of Counties (NACO)

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)

National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG)

National Audubon

National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Grain and Feed Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Potato Council

National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

National Rural Health Association

National Rural Water Association

NCBA - CLUSA

North American Blueberry Council

North American Millers' Association

Northern Forest Center

NTCA - Rural Broadband Association

Organic Produce Association

Partners for Rural America

Partners for Rural Transformation

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

RCAP

Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers

Rural Coalition

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

Save the Children

Self-Help Enterprises (Visalia, Calif.)

Share Our Strength

SNAC International

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP)

Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA)

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

U.S. Beet Sugar Association

U.S. Dairy Export council