

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,

Almond Alliance of California

AMCOT

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Peanut Council

American Peanut Manufacturers, Inc.

American Seed Trade Association

American Sheep Industry Association

Archer Daniels Midland

Blue Diamond Growers

CHS, Inc.

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

Global Cold Chain Alliance

Idaho Potato Commission

International Dairy Foods Association

Livestock Marketing Association

Mead Johnson Nutrition

National Association of Egg Farmers

National Cotton Council

National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Grain and Feed Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Oilseed Processors Association

National Pork Producers Council

National Renderers Association

National Sorghum Producers

North American Export Grain Association

North American Millers Association

Northwest Horticulture Council

Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association

Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Sweetener Users Association

United Dairymen of Arizona

U.S. Dairy Export Council

U.S. Meat Export Federation

World Perspectives, Inc.