

August 11, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Senate Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Senate Minority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Schumer, Barrasso, and Durbin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing America's meat and poultry producers and processors, we encourage you to swiftly bring to the Senate floor for confirmation the nomination of Dr. Mindy Brashears as Under Secretary of Food Safety.

Dr. Brashears is eminently qualified to fulfill the critical role of overseeing the safety of the nation's meat and poultry products. Dr. Brashears was unanimously confirmed in 2020 to the same role for which she is again nominated – a position she held until the end of the first Trump Administration.

Prior to her nomination, Dr. Brashears served as the director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence and as a professor of food microbiology and food safety at Texas Tech University. Dr. Brashears also served as a professor of food safety and public health at Texas Tech University for nearly twenty years before joining USDA as Deputy Under Secretary of Food Safety in 2019.

The Under Secretary for Food Safety is a critical role within the department that should be filled rapidly to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and egg products. Dr. Brashears' previous work as Under Secretary of Food Safety and her background and experience in the area of food safety have demonstrated her leadership on these issues.

For the reasons mentioned, the undersigned respectfully request that Dr. Brashears' nomination be expeditiously brought forward for confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

National Chicken Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
Meat Institute