Greg Ibach

Written Statement

November 10th, 2026

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Good Morning, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss my desire to serve the American public as the nominee for Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I am honored to be nominated by the President and humbled by the trust and confidence shown in selecting me for this position. I also want to thank Senator Fischer for her kind introduction and steadfast support throughout the nomination process.

I am joined today by my wife Teresa. We are the parents of three children and grandparents of four grandchildren.

I am proud that my children represent the fifth generation of my mother's family and the sixth generation of my father's family to farm and ranch in northeast Dawson County, Nebraska, near the small town of Sumner.

Our family farm consists of row crop and cow-calf enterprises. As is the case with many farm operations around the country, ours weathered difficult times because of persistence, communication, and teamwork. I applied those traits as the foundation of my

work ethic and I look forward to bringing these same principles to USDA, if confirmed.

Working on my parents' farm defined who I was and what I have become. That daily participation led me logically to our county's 4-H program. And from there, I made the obvious decision to attend the University of Nebraska and majored in animal science and agricultural economics.

Following college, during the heart of the historic farm crisis, I spent six years working in the Farm Credit System in Nebraska and Iowa in the latter part of the 1980s. I returned to the farm to pursue my love of production agriculture and joined my grandparents, who assisted Teresa and me as we started our own family farm and raised our three children.

Those years also provided key opportunities to become involved in the organizations that represented our family's farm endeavors. I was involved in our county and state Farm Bureau and county, state and national cattlemen's organizations, securing leadership positions at both the state and national levels.

I was honored in 1999 to be asked by Governor Mike Johanns to serve as Assistant Director of Agriculture, and then, by Governor Dave Heineman and Governor, now Senator Pete Ricketts, to serve as Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. During my tenure as Director, I was also elected to serve as the President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. In 2017, I was nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate to be the Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

If confirmed as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, I will bring that same producer perspective and commitment to service to the critical work of expanding and defending markets for American agriculture around the world.

The Trade and Foreign Affairs mission area at USDA has a central role in advancing U.S. agricultural trade and exports. Through the Foreign Agricultural Service and in close partnership with other federal agencies, the Department works every day to open new markets, expand existing ones, and ensures that American farmers, ranchers, and food companies can compete on a level playing field. From working on trade deals, to resolving sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, to providing market intelligence and export promotion support, USDA helps turn the productivity of American agriculture into real sales and stronger farm incomes. If confirmed, I will make it a top priority to strengthen these efforts so that more of what our producers grow finds willing buyers around the world.

USDA also plays a vital role in America's international food assistance andagricultural development programs. Through the Food for Peace program, Food for Progress, and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, the Department helps alleviate hunger, improve nutrition, support education, and build stronger agricultural systems in developing countries. These programs not only reflect our nation's values and humanitarian leadership while bolstering national security, but also create important opportunities for U.S. agricultural commodities and strengthen long-term commercial relationships that benefit American farmers and ranchers. If confirmed, I will work to ensure these programs are administered effectively, efficiently, and in close coordination with other agencies so that they deliver measurable results for the people they serve and for the producers who supply them.

If confirmed, I will prioritize aggressive market development and trade enforcement. That means working closely with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of Commerce, State Department, and our embassies and agricultural attachés around the globe to identify and

remove barriers—whether tariff or non-tariff—that limit opportunities for U.S. agriculture. It also means standing firmly behind our producers when trading partners fail to honor their commitments.

If confirmed, I will maintain an open door to Members of Congress, to state departments of agriculture, to commodity organizations, and to the diverse voices across American agriculture who have ideas and experience to contribute.

Thank you again for your attention and consideration of my nomination. I will be humbled to serve if confirmed and would look forward to working together to advance American agriculture in markets around the world.