

March 20, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

As former U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, representing past administrations from President Obama to President Reagan, we support the confirmation of Sonny Perdue to be the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. We know firsthand the depth of understanding and the leadership capabilities necessary to effectively manage an agency with a \$150 billion annual budget and more than 90,000 employees located across every county in the U.S. in addition to those stationed around the world.

Governor Perdue has a long record of public service in Georgia with two terms as Governor and five successful terms in the State Senate. While governor, Georgia was recognized by the Pew Center on the States and Governing Magazine for management, receiving the highest ranking in the Southeast. We are confident that Governor Perdue can draw on his experience and expertise to effectively manage the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the same way. Similarly, we believe that Governor Perdue's experience in agriculture, business and other areas equips him well to understand and lead the USDA and its diverse portfolio of issues and programs.

We are pleased to add our voices to the more than 600 organizations, associations and companies that have endorsed Governor Perdue's confirmation and respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Secretary Tom Vilsack (2009-2017)
Secretary Ed Schafer (2008-2009)
Secretary Mike Johanns (2005-2008)
Secretary Ann M. Veneman (2001-2005)
Secretary Dan Glickman (1995-2001)
Secretary John Block (1981-1986)