

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned national agriculture organizations respectfully urge you and your Senate colleagues to consider and approve the President's nomination of Governor Sonny Perdue as Secretary of Agriculture before the Senate begins its two-week recess next week.

The Department of Agriculture has been without political leadership for over two months, longer than nearly every other Cabinet-level agency. The list of key domestic and international issues that need to be addressed by the Secretary and his team is long and growing, particularly given the troubling economic conditions in rural America. In addition, it is important to U.S. farmers and ranchers that USDA be at the table as the Administration considers recommendations on FY-2017 appropriations and on the FY-2018 budget.

We understand that the Senate's schedule next week is extremely busy. However, taking the short amount of time that would be required to consider Governor Perdue's nomination will enable the Department of Agriculture and our industry to move forward with decisions that affect the livelihood of everyone in the U.S. agriculture industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union

National Milk Producers Federation
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice

CC: Members, United States Senate