

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Hoeven and Aderholt and Ranking Members Bishop and Merkley:

We thank you for your attention to the USDA proposal for the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. With USDA funded through December 7 on a continuing resolution, we write to respectfully request you exercise your authorities to convey to USDA that it not take any action to implement any part of the relocations and realignment prior to your action on a final bill.

There are many questions in the USDA community about the justification, rapid timeline, and the ramifications of the moves. We believe the justifications and ramifications should be thoroughly examined and understood before USDA moves forward with either the reorganization or the relocations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these issues with you.

Sincerely,
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Dairy Science Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Phytopathological Society

American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Statistical Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users
Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consumer Federation of America
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Crop Science Society of America
Decision Demographics
FASS, Inc
Food Research and Action Center
Global Harvest Initiative
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-State Initiative
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Farmers Union
National Organic Coalition
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Turfgrass Federation
National WIC Association
National Young Farmers Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Regional Science Council
Organic Seed Alliance
Population Association of America
Rural Sociological Society
Soil Science Society of America
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics
WineAmerica
World Perspectives, Inc.