

The Hagstrom Report

Agriculture News As It Happens



The Hagstrom Report

Friday, February 14, 2025 | Volume 15 Number 38

NSAC to Rollins: Relieve and reverse pain, confusion

By JERRY HAGSTROM

While many agriculture groups issued statements congratulating Brooke Rollins on being confirmed and sworn in as Agriculture secretary on Thursday, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition addressed the freeze on payments on signed contracts that the Trump administration has instituted since January 20 when President Trump took office.

“Secretary Rollins’ first order of business must be to relieve and reverse the pain and confusion being felt by farmers and communities nationwide from the federal funding freeze,” Mike Lavender, the NSAC policy director, said in a news release.

“This includes honoring legal obligations to farmers and organizations by immediately releasing funding on all signed contracts.

“For weeks now, farmers and communities have been subjected to the chaos and uncertainty of an indiscriminate federal funding freeze, including unlawful contract terminations. Other critical work lies ahead — to deliver disaster relief to uninsured producers, and to steer the USDA toward supporting the economic viability of all farmers and communities.

“We look forward to sharing our members' experiences and priorities with Secretary Rollins and the USDA,” Lavender said.

Rollins was confirmed as the NSAC was holding its annual meeting in Washington this week during which 130 farmers, ranchers, and community advocates scheduled nearly 150 meetings with members of Congress and staff.



Mike Lavender

At a Happy Hour Wednesday evening in Georgetown, one attendee told *The Hagstrom Report* that members of Congress had asked that farmers whose contracts with the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service had been frozen contact their members of Congress and speak out publicly.

Polls show President Trump won more than 70% of the rural vote and one attendee said that many rural Americans wanted "disruption," but did not expect all that the Trump administration has done.

Asked if NSAC members campaigned against Trump, one attendee said that many members work for nonprofits that can only try to set the agenda rather than campaign and lose their tax status.

But the same individual said some farmers did knock on doors to try to help the Harris-Walz ticket.
