



September 26, 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:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing the National Conservation Partnership – the local, state and federal partners that deliver conservation assistance in every community in the nation – we write to express our strong support for the swift confirmation of Mr. Bill Northey as USDA’s Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). We strongly believe that Mr. Northey’s extensive leadership experience in conservation and production agriculture have prepared him well to lead this new mission area within USDA.

As a fourth-generation farmer and former commissioner for the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mr. Northey has managed and directed natural resource management programs, set conservation priorities, and coordinated conservation efforts with other local units of government, state agencies, and agricultural organizations.

In his current role as Iowa’s secretary of agriculture, Mr. Northey has proved to be a dedicated public servant and representative for Iowa agriculture, traveling to all of Iowa’s 99 counties to listen to the needs of farmers and other agricultural stakeholders on issues of conservation and soil and water concerns. Over the course of his 11-year tenure, he has also been a staunch supporter of conserving the state’s natural resources through the advancement of technologies that aid in the conservation of soil, water, and wildlife habitat. As secretary of agriculture, Mr. Northey oversaw the implementation of the state’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy and the expansion of its water quality cost share program. He has also served for many years as co-chair of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force. Throughout his career, Mr. Northey has shown his

commitment to advancing agriculture and conservation by working alongside landowners to implement conservation programs – many of the same programs he would oversee as USDA FPAC undersecretary.

During this transitional time of reorganization at USDA, it is vital that the FPAC mission area has a permanent undersecretary as quickly as possible. We believe that Mr. Northey is highly qualified and more than able to undertake the tremendous responsibilities of this position. We appreciate your dedicated leadership to the nation's agricultural community and thank you in advance for your interest and support of Mr. Northey's nomination.

Sincerely,



Brent Van Dyke, President
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)



Tim Riley, President
National Conservation Districts Employees Association (NCDEA)



Marc Cribb, President
National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA)



William Hodge, President
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC)