



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

February 20, 2026

THE HONORABLE AUGUST PFLUGER
United State House of Representatives
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Pfluger,

Thank you for your letter, supporting the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed Reorganization Plan. I appreciate your recognition of the need to decentralize the Department to restore USDA's core mission of better serving American agricultural producers and foresters across the Nation. I also appreciated our recent conversations on the Department's work to prioritize America's farm families.

As you may have seen, the Department received over 40,000 comments on the proposed Plan and provided a summary of those public comments on USDA's Reorganization webpage.¹ The Department takes note of your feedback with respect to a potential service gap for Texas agricultural producers and will consider this feedback as we move to finalize the Reorganization Plan.

The People's Department appreciates your continued support and welcomes any additional suggestions you may have. I value lawmakers' perspectives, particularly given you know your State best.

Thank you, again, for sharing your perspectives on how to streamline and make USDA more efficient and better positioned to support American and Lone Star agricultural producers. The Department's Office of Congressional Relations (OCR) remains available to you as a resource, and your staff can reach OCR at (202) 720-7095 or at ocr@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Alexander Vaden", is positioned above the typed name.

Stephen Alexander Vaden
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

¹ Available at: <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/reorganization>.