

STATE CAPITOL
201 W. CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 216
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



(573) 751-3222
WWW.GOVERNOR.MO.GOV

Mike Kehoe

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

September 17, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

By way of this letter I am expressing my full support for continued relocation of USDA functions to Missouri. Missouri has been very pleased to welcome and embrace USDA personnel in both Kansas City and St. Louis, and ongoing relocations of USDA functions is harmonious with Missouri's status as a national leader in agriculture research and production.

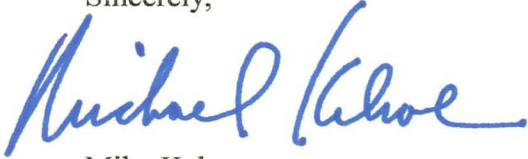
Changes currently being contemplated include: the National Operations Center and in St. Louis, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in Kansas City, the USDA Technology Center in Kansas City, Foreign Agriculture Service program support to Kansas City, and additional Rural Housing Service employees to St. Louis.

Each of these moves has already created positive economic inertia in these cities, and changing course at this point, as a result of interference from West Coast interests who neither know, nor seek to know, Missouri has the effect of stifling economic growth, upending real-estate transactions such as leases, and taking jobs from Missourians eager to fill them. None of these effects are in Missouri's or the department's best interest.

I am very grateful of your and President Trump's leadership and vision in moving these important agriculture jobs into states and communities most directly affected and with the inherent expertise stemming from day-to-day experience in the ag world.

Missouri wants to further partner with the department in continuing to advance the nation's agricultural output. These moves are critical to doing so, and I ask that you stand up to the self-serving interests of those who seek to undermine Missouri's role in the department's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Kehoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Kehoe
Governor