

**NOMINATIONS OF DR. JOSÉ EMILIO ESTEBAN,
MR. VINCENT GARFIELD LOGAN,
AND MS. ALEXIS TAYLOR**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

September 22, 2022

Printed for the use of the
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry



Available on <http://www.govinfo.gov/>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 2024

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

DEBBIE STABENOW, Michigan, *Chairwoman*

PATRICK J. LEAHY, Vermont

SHERROD BROWN, Ohio

AMY KLOBUCHAR, Minnesota

MICHAEL F. BENNET, Colorado

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, New York

TINA SMITH, Minnesota

RICHARD J. DURBIN, Illinois

CORY BOOKER, New Jersey

BEN RAY LUJAN, New Mexico

RAPHAEL WARNOCK, Georgia

JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas

MITCH McCONNELL, Kentucky

JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota

JONI ERNST, Iowa

CINDY HYDE-SMITH, Mississippi

ROGER MARSHALL, Kansas

TOMMY TUBERVILLE, Alabama

CHARLES GRASSLEY, Iowa

JOHN THUNE, South Dakota

DEB FISCHER, Nebraska

MIKE BRAUN, Indiana

ERICA CHABOT, Majority Staff Director

JESSICA L. WILLIAMS, Chief Clerk

FITZHUGH ELDER IV, Minority Staff Director

C O N T E N T S

Thursday, September 22, 2022

	Page
HEARING:	
Nominations of Dr. José Emilio Esteban, Mr. Vincent Garfield Logan, and Ms. Alexis Taylor	1

STATEMENTS PRESENTED BY SENATORS

Stabenow, Hon. Debbie, U.S. Senator from the State of Michigan	1
Boozman, Hon. John, U.S. Senator from the State of Arkansas	3

WITNESSES

Esteban, José Emilio, MVM, MBA, Ph.D, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture For Food Safety	7
Logan, Vincent Garfield, of New York, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration	9
Taylor, Alexis, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture For Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs	11

APPENDIX

PREPARED STATEMENTS:	
Esteban, José Emilio, MVM, MBA, Ph.D.	32
Logan, Vincent Garfield	35
Taylor, Alexis	37
DOCUMENT(S) SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD:	
Stabenow, Hon. Debbie:	
Agricultural Companies in support of Alexis Taylor, letter of support	42
American Forest and Paper Association, letter of support	45
Agriculture Industry, letter of support	46
The Association of Public Health Laboratories, letter of support	50
The Association of Public Health Laboratories, letter of support	51
National Cattlemen's Beef Association, letter of support for Dr. José Emilio Esteban	52
National Cattlemen's Beef Association, letter of support for Alexi Taylor ..	53
The Food Industry Association, letter of support	54
Farm Credit Council, letter of support	55
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	56
Esteban, José Emilio, MVM, MBA, Ph.D.:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by Dr. José Emilio Esteban	58-91
Logan, Vincent Garfield:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by Vincent Garfield Logan	92-121
Taylor, Alexis:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by Alexis Taylor	122-182

IV

	Page
QUESTION AND ANSWER:	
Esteban, José Emilio, MVM, MBA, Ph.D.:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Debbie Stabenow	184
Written response to questions from Hon. John Boozman	184
Written response to questions from Hon. Sherrod Brown	187
Written response to questions from Hon. Kirsten E. Gillibrand	188
Written response to questions from Hon. Cory Booker	189
Written response to questions from Hon. Ben Ray Luján	193
Written response to questions from Hon. Raphael Warnock	193
Written response to questions from Hon. Joni Ernst	195
Written response to questions from Hon. Tommy Tuberville	195
Logan, Vincent Garfield:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Debbie Stabenow	197
Written response to questions from Hon. John Boozman	197
Written response to questions from Hon. Sherrod Brown	198
Written response to questions from Hon. Tina Smith	199
Written response to questions from Hon. Joni Ernst	200
Written response to questions from Hon. Charles Grassley	201
Taylor, Alexis:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Debbie Stabenow	202
Written response to questions from Hon. John Boozman	204
Written response to questions from Hon. Sherrod Brown	206
Written response to questions from Hon. Kirsten E. Gillibrand	207
Written response to questions from Hon. Raphael Warnock	207
Written response to questions from Hon. John Hoeven	209
Written response to questions from Hon. Tommy Tuberville	211
Written response to questions from Hon. Charles Grassley	211

**Nominations of Dr. José Emilio Esteban, Mr.
Vincent Garfield Logan, and Ms. Alexis Taylor**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., via WebEx and in room 215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Committee, presiding.

Present or submitting a statement: Senators Stabenow, Klobuchar, Gillibrand, Smith, Luján, Warnock, Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Tuberville, Grassley, Thune, Fischer, and Braun.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DEBBIE STABENOW, U.S. SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, CHAIRWOMAN, U.S. COM-
MITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Chairwoman STABENOW. Good morning. I call to order the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

First this morning, before getting to a very important hearing, I want to do a couple of things. One, officially welcome again Erica Chabot, who is our new staff director. Welcome, Erica. We are glad to have you. That is the happy note.

The sad note is we have two members who have done wonderful things for the Committee that are going to be moving on shortly. Because this is our last hearing, I think, before they leave, I want to say thank you. One is Jacqlyn Schneider, who has been with the Committee for 11 years, serving as our Deputy Staff Director for the last seven. She has been an integral part of the team, an expert on specialty crops, of course near and dear to my heart, and has been a really important part of the Committee's success. On all things nutrition and food security she is the expert and so well-respected in the nutrition community. I know she is going to do well in her next tenure. Jacqlyn, where are you? Thank you.

[Applause.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you. Someone who has not been with us as long but we have appreciated so much is Patrick Delaney, who has been with the team for the last two years. He served as Communications Director for the House Agriculture Committee. We have come to rely on his media savvy, his hard work on the farm bill hearings, and the outreach for the Committee. We know that he will do well, and wish he and his family well on his next chapter. Where is Patrick? Thank you, Patrick.

[Applause.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Wonderful. We hate to see anyone go. I think Senator Boozman and I would like to have a room that we lock people in so they cannot get out on the Committee. We have been so blessed with so many wonderful staff.

Today's hearing. We are considering the nominations of Dr. José Emilio Esteban to be Under Secretary for Food Safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Vincent Logan to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board; and Alexis Taylor, to be Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at the USDA. Welcome to all of you. It is a pleasure to have you and your families here today. You each have been nominated for very important roles for American farmers and rural communities and all of us in America.

Every American deserves to know that the food they are eating is safe. That is why it is imperative we fill the USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety position. Dr. Esteban is a dedicated public servant and food safety expert with over 24 years of experience as a food safety regulator. His expertise will help USDA ensure that the food families put on their tables is safe.

Through funding that I secured in the American Rescue Plan, the USDA is investing more than \$1 billion to create new small and medium-sized meat and poultry processing capacity. These investments are building a more resilient food system, and we need to be sure these processors are successful. Dr. Esteban, you will play a very important role in making sure that happens.

Next, Mr. Vincent Logan is nominated to serve as a board member for the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). The Farm Credit System ensures that rural communities and agricultural producers of all types and sizes have reliable access to credit. Mr. Logan's extensive background in both agriculture and financial sectors makes him very well qualified for this role.

Mr. Logan's nomination is also historic. If confirmed, he will be the first Native American to serve as a Farm Credit Administration board member. It is long overdue that we fill this board seat, which has been vacant for several years, and I will also note that while I appreciate the continued service of the two current board members, both of their terms have expired and we urge the White House to quickly nominate people to fill those positions.

Our farmers and foresters need consistent access to capital and to markets as well, to sell their products. Agriculture exports add over \$154 billion to the U.S. economy each year—\$154 billion to our U.S. economy—supporting more than one million jobs. Yet producers consistently face unscientific and other non-tariff trade barriers. Congress recognized this in the 2014 Farm Bill, when I worked with Senator Roberts and then former Financial Committee Chairman, Senator Baucus, to establish the USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

It is fitting that Senator Baucus' agriculture staffer during the 2014 Farm Bill, Alexis Taylor, is before us today. I do not think you probably assumed you would be here when we put that in the Farm Bill, but we are so glad that you are here today to fill this position.

Ms. Taylor grew up on her family's farm in northeast Iowa, a farm that has been in her family for more than 160 years. She has

spent her entire career as a dedicated public servant, working for American agriculture, most recently as the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Ms. Taylor understands trade in agriculture and will be a real asset to the USDA as they help farmers and rural communities recover from the pandemic.

While completing her degree, Ms. Taylor has also served in the U.S. Army Reserves, did a tour in Iraq, and we thank you for your service as well.

Each of these nominees has strong bipartisan support, and I am looking forward to moving them quickly through the Committee and through the Senate.

Finally, all of our nominees today have support from a broad range of stakeholders across trade, finance, and agriculture sectors. I ask unanimous consent that these letters describing their support be entered into the record. Ordered, without objection.

[The following letters can be found on pages 42–57 in the appendix.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Now I would like to turn to my friend and partner, our Ranking Member, Senator Boozman, for his opening comments.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN BOOZMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

Senator BOOZMAN. Well, thank you very much, Madam Chair. Today we meet to hear from Dr. José Emilio Esteban, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for Food Safety; Mr. Vincent Garfield Logan, the President's nominee to serve as a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board; and Ms. Alexis Taylor, the President's nominee to serve as the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. I congratulate you all on your nominations and thank you for your willingness to serve the public.

I would also like to specifically recognize Ms. Taylor and express my gratitude for her service in the military, serving in the U.S. Army, which included a deployment to Iraq. Again, thank you very much for that.

While each nominee will, if confirmed, have significant impact upon their agencies, collectively these three nominees will have a sizable impact on all of agriculture. From the credit farmers and ranchers depend on, to the opportunities existing in new export markets provided for our producers, to ensuring that our meat and poultry supply is wholesome and safe, these nominees are being asked to lead some of the most consequential agencies affecting agriculture.

It has become a common refrain that the pandemic stressed our agriculture in ways that most of us have never experienced. Since then, we have seen the impacts of inflation, supply chain disruptions, and the war in Ukraine on agriculture. The Farm Credit Administration, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Foreign Agricultural Service have all been at the forefront of confronting these challenges.

These nominees face much different conditions than their predecessors did. Briefly, I would like to touch on a few issues that concern me in each of the nominees' area of responsibility.

For farm credit, U.S. farm debt is projected to reach a record high of nearly \$500 billion in 2022, up five percent from last year and up nearly 70 percent from a decade ago. Due to rapidly increasing interest rates, farm interest expenses related to servicing record-high farm debt are expected to increase by \$7.5 billion to a record \$26 billion, the largest increase of all time, and up nearly 40 percent from last year.

In addition to increasing interest expenses in 2022, the record-high increase in farm production expenses is expected to persist in 2023, making the cost of borrowing and capitalizing farm production efforts such as the upcoming spring planting season even more expensive.

On food safety, ensuring the safety of the U.S. food supply is of the utmost importance and one of the most crucial functions performed by USDA. Reliance on science and data have historically been the cornerstone of our country's food safety regulation, and it certainly should remain so. I think we all agree on that. I am interested in knowing more about the USDA's recent declaration of salmonella as an adulterant in certain poultry products, and hope to get a better understanding of USDA's future plans with regard to salmonella regulation.

Separately, I was critical of USDA's shift on line speeds in the pork industry. Poultry processors are also facing uncertainty on this front. Sudden changes in a regulatory system such as this have significant consequences for producers, the food supply, and consumer food prices.

Finally, but extremely important, trade. Ensuring market access abroad for our farmers and ranchers while keeping other countries honest as they supply our markets is critical for U.S. agriculture and the U.S. economy. Up until recently, ag trade was one of the few contributors toward a positive trade balance. We need to return ag to being a net export.

Farmers and ranchers across the U.S. do not know what this Administration's trade goals or plans are to expand market access for their family farms. I have confidence that Ms. Taylor and Mr. McKalip, the nominee to serve as the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the Office of the United States Trade Rep, have the skills and abilities to help our producers. I do question if they will be receiving the support they need from the White House.

I have met with each nominee prior to this morning and I believe we had informative, positive conversations. I look forward to today's hearing, and again, thank our nominees for their willingness to serve.

Before I close I just want to touch on a different matter for just a second. Recently, USDA announced the closure of a cotton classing facility in Dumas, Arkansas. The closure results in the termination of upwards to 200 people in this small delta town where poverty is abundant, jobs are scarce, and that is concerning. Currently their contributions to the Dumas economy will be permanently lost without immediate action. I very much appreciate the Deputy Secretary recently meeting with the mayor of Dumas. I have talked to Secretary Vilsack about this.

Again, I do appreciate the fact that we are moving forward, and I think the single most important step USDA could do to help the

community further its goals and equity would be to maintain its presence in Dumas. We look forward to working together.

Also, very quickly, Madam Chair, I also want to thank Jacquyn for her service. I think we came to the Committee about the same time, and I know how hard you have worked, and your finger that has been in so many different things through the years. We do appreciate your service. Certainly, Patrick, we appreciate all you do, and again, good luck as both of you go forward. Things always work out for the best, and I do not think we have to worry about either one of you.

Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Well, thank you so much, Senator Boozman. Again, welcome to each of our witnesses. We will now introduce them.

First, again, Dr. José Emilio Esteban is the Chief Scientist for the Food Safety Inspection Service. He has experience with the United States Department of Agriculture and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Esteban was trained as a veterinarian in his native Mexico before receiving his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of California, Davis. We are so appreciative of your being here and your willingness to serve.

I will now recognize Senator Gillibrand for the introduction of our next witness.

Senator GILLIBRAND. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I am honored to introduce Mr. Vince G. Logan to the Agriculture Committee today, as nominee to serve on the Farm Credit Administration Board. As a fellow New Yorker, Mr. Logan is a member of the Osage Nation and currently serves as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer for the Native American Agriculture Fund.

Educated at Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the School of International Public Affairs at Columbia University, Mr. Logan was nominated by President Obama and served as the Special Trustee for American Indians at the U.S. Department of the Interior. In that role, he used his financial and regulatory background to reaffirm the position of the office as a leader in Indian trust reform, financial education, and government accountability.

He has worked in New York in both asset management, as an investment advisor, and asset-based financing as a lawyer. Mr. Logan practiced law in shipping, equipment, and aircraft finance. As an investment advisor, he focused on permanent fund development, financial education for client, and institutional asset management. He was appointed as a director of the Little Rock branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and is also an Oklahoma State University Foundation Governor.

In his spare time, Mr. Logan is a national speaker on financial empowerment and volunteers at tribal youth events, teaching financial skills. He has also mentored numerous young professionals, guiding them through their careers in the securities industry and law.

I am proud to welcome Mr. Logan today and I look forward to seeing how his financial and regulatory acumen will support the integral work of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. We will now turn to Senator Grassley for our final introduction this morning.

Senator GRASSLEY. First of all, I want everybody on the Committee, before I introduce Alexis, to know that I have known members of the Taylor clan for at least 52 years—

Chairwoman STABENOW. My goodness.

Senator GRASSLEY [continuing]. when an uncle joined me in the Iowa legislature. I have been acquainted with a cousin that was a political advisor to me, and I have also had a sister of Alexis that was a longtime legislative assistant in my office.

Alexis serves now as Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, having served since her appointment by Oregon Governor Kate Brown in December 2016. Prior to her appointment as Director of that office, Ms. Taylor oversaw the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services. While traveling the world, she worked to open new markets and improve the competitive position of U.S. agricultural products in the marketplace.

Before joining the USDA, she worked for several Members of Congress, staffing members from Montana and Iowa. She is an Iowa native, obviously, moved to Oregon after working 12 years in Washington, DC, focused on U.S. agriculture trade policies. She is a graduate of Iowa State University, and grew up on her family farm near Holy Cross, Iowa, which has been in her family for more than 160 years.

As you know, I have known Alexis for many years, and I think very highly of her. I am very pleased that she is nominated for this position, and I urge her quick confirmation for the reasons as we have been waiting for 20 months to get agricultural policy at the head of this Administration. This ought to move along very quickly, and it really ought to move next week, by U.C.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much, Senator Grassley.

Senator ERNST. Madam Chair?

Chairwoman STABENOW. You can tell the real secrets, by the way, of Alexis and her family when we are offline, the real deal.

Senator ERNST. Madam Chair?

Chairwoman STABENOW. Please.

Senator ERNST. May I add?

Chairwoman STABENOW. You may, absolutely. Senator Ernst.

Senator ERNST. Thank you. I am also a fan of Alexis Taylor, as many of us are in this room, and we do share so many things in common, like Senator Grassley outlined. We both grew up on our family farms. We both graduated from "the" Iowa State University.

Senator GRASSLEY.

[Inaudible.]

[Laughter.]

Senator ERNST. We have got a little Panther-Cyclone rivalry going on here.

We also served in our great United States Army, and I truly want to thank you for your commitment not only to our farms but commitment to the greater good of our wonderful country. We will continue to serve in public service, and you have done that for many, many years. Thank you so much for that service.

I just want to piggyback on what Senator Grassley said, that it is incredibly important that have this role filled. We have over 85,000 family farms in Iowa, and we are the top producer of our Nation's pork, eggs, corn, soybeans, and ethanol. Our farmers and our trade partners have waited over 20 months for the Biden administration to prioritize trade challenges and to seek these new opportunities.

Again, Alexis, we are glad to have you here. You have Senator Grassley that has been at the helm here, working with your family for many, many, many years, and I am glad to welcome you into this role with our Federal Government. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Absolutely. Thank you. You have 100 percent of the Iowa delegation here supporting you, and I hope that next week we can get 100 percent of the Senate. In fact, what would be great is to get a U.C., Senator Grassley, on all three of these nominees to fill these positions. Hopefully we can do that, we can work together to actually get that done next week.

I have two things next that I need to do. First to administer an oath, we have to do for all nominees. Please stand and raise your right hand, if you each would.

Do you swear and affirm that the testimony you are about to provide is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Dr. ESTEBAN. I do.

Mr. LOGAN. I do.

Ms. TAYLOR. I do.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you. Second, do you agree that if confirmed, you will appear before any duly constituted committee of Congress, if asked to appear?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Yes.

Mr. LOGAN. Yes.

Ms. TAYLOR. Yes.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. We all look forward to learning more about your visions and your priorities. You will each, as you know, have five minutes for testimony. We welcome any other written documents that you would like to give the Committee.

We will begin with Dr. Esteban.

**STATEMENT OF JOSÉ EMILIO ESTEBAN, MVM, MBA, Ph.D.,
NOMINEE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR
FOOD SAFETY**

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you, Senator. It kind of hard to follow that introduction for Alexis. If this were a competition I would be in trouble. Gladly I am not competing so I am just going to go on with my introduction.

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my nomination for Under Secretary for Food Safety at the United States Department of Agriculture.

I want to also thank all those who are responsible for my success in life, especially my family and the many colleagues whom I have

served during my tenure as a Federal employee. A special thanks to my wife Mandy, my son Joseph—he is watching this from Tokyo—and my daughter Emily. I continue to learn every day from them, and I hope to do so for the rest of my life. I would also like to thank President Biden for nominating me to serve as Under Secretary and to Secretary Vilsack for his trust and support.

When I migrated to the United States in 1985, I would have never envisioned the breadth and magnitude of the opportunities this country would offer me, opportunities I jumped at and that have brought me here today. My mother's cousin, David, opened his home to me and sponsored me into the United States. The first stop from the airport was the Social Security Office, so I could get my tax number and start working. In the ensuing nearly 40 years I have worked in tomato fields, in the retail industry, I have owned my own marketing business, I put on rodeo shows, and while I was doing all that I also earned two additional academic degrees.

For the last 30 years, I have had the privilege to work in the Federal Government, first as an epidemic intelligence service officer and then a staff epidemiologist at CDC. Then at USDA in multiple locations and areas of responsibility, most recently as Chief Scientist. I have worked alongside many dedicated staff and shared a goal of safeguarding America's food supply. I have also traveled the world on behalf of Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), working with local people, sharing meals, and exchanging ideas. Because of these experiences, I understand how important a role USDA plays in the world providing safe and nutritious food, not only for U.S. citizens but for global communities.

I would like to highlight a few priority areas I intend to focus on if I am fortunate to be confirmed. First and foremost, safe and nutritious food is a right for every American—and I emphasize on the words "every American." We all have the right to safe food. We have one of the world's safest and strongest food safety systems, and I intend to maintain and enhance that status.

Second, our employees are an essential part of our mission. We must ensure that they have a safe work environment and we afford, to those who seek them, opportunities. I would not be here if I had not been given those opportunities.

Third, we need to engage transparently with both producers and consumers, as a team. For every challenge there is a solution that provides safe food, a healthy workplace, and continued business viability. One need not and should not compromise one for the other.

Fourth and last, we have to work more collaboratively across USDA agencies and with other public health partners. There is a plethora of opportunities for synergy and collaboration within USDA. Together we achieve substantially more encompassing goals than by working independently.

I am excited and eager for this opportunity, and if confirmed, to lead USDA's food safety work for the Biden-Harris administration and further the Administration's efforts to transform America's food system and support more resilient local and regional food production, while ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities.

The outpouring of interest USDA has seen from farmers and rural communities and businesses, particularly from our small to

mid-sized meat and poultry processing facilities, as they seek ways to build new markets and streams of income has been actually inspirational.

So in closing, I would like to thank President Biden and Secretary Vilsack for their support and thank you Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear here before you today. The possibility of serving as the next Under Secretary for Food Safety is a huge opportunity for me to pay back to this country that has given me so, so, so very much, and I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Esteban can be found on page 32 in the appendix.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Well, thank you so much. We are so pleased to have you.

Mr. Logan.

**STATEMENT OF VINCENT GARFIELD LOGAN, NOMINEE, TO BE
A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD,
FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. LOGAN. Yes, I was just thinking, we could have quite a college football debate going on right now.

Thank you, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Vincent Logan, and I have the privilege of being nominated by President Biden to be on the board of the Farm Credit Administration. It is an honor to appear before you today and seek your confirmation of my nomination.

My parents loved this country. Both raised in rural America on family farms, both members of the Osage Nation, both served in the military during World War II and both are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. My father, Oscar Logan Jr., enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought with the Fifth Division in Iwo Jima, where he was critically wounded, for which he received the Purple Heart. My mother, Della Morrell Logan, served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a nurse stationed here in Washington. After the war, they both returned to Oklahoma where they met, were married, and raised a family.

I vividly remember my first visit to this city as a boy. On that trip I saw how my parents revered the great monuments and institutions of our country, those that we all cherish. I recall when we visited the Capitol, we dressed in our Sunday best—my mom made sure of that—and we spoke in hushed tones. To this day I recall how my mother's eyes welled up when she heard the national anthem and saw the American flag.

My parents believed in service to our communities and to our country. They exhibited patriotism and promoted the ideals of good citizenry. They instilled these values in me, and it was these values that led me to serve our country as Special Trustee for American Indians during the Obama Administration, and lead me here today.

Sitting directly behind me here today is my partner, Dr. Steven Lieberman, who served as Acting Under Secretary for the Veterans Health Administration when COVID ravaged this country. Steven worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, literally working seven

days a week for well over two years. I personally witnessed his courageous efforts in service to our veterans and VHA staff, leading the VHA through its darkest days. His dedication embodies the very essence of public service, always putting the needs of others before himself. He is my hero. I appreciate Steven's guidance and support, and for being here with me today.

My career in public service began in the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. I later worked in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, and as previously mentioned, as Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior.

I spent most of my career in the private sector in New York, first as a corporate finance lawyer and then as an investment advisor to institutional clients. Since 2019, I have been the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer with the Native American Agriculture Fund, which is, by the way, the largest philanthropic organization focused solely on Native American farming and ranching communities.

The Farm Credit System, established by an act of Congress over 100 years ago, has a long history and an inspiring mission to provide credit to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agricultural cooperatives. Credit is critical to the success of farmers and ranchers. Production agriculture is capital intensive and heavily reliant on access to competitive credit. The cost of land, labor, equipment, and fertilizer is high, requiring both long-term and short-term financing.

In addition to being costly to operate, agricultural enterprises also entail considerable risk, thanks to variables like weather and market forces. I am very thankful to the men and women who, despite the risks, produce the food and fiber we depend on to survive.

Although the Farm Credit System is the largest single provider of agricultural credit, it is by no means the only one. Many commercial lenders also serve the credit needs of our farmers. Farmers and ranchers benefit from these multiple sources of financing competing for business because it often results in lower interest rates and better terms.

As a government-sponsored enterprise dedicated to serving agriculture, the Farm Credit System's mission is to serve agriculture in good times and in bad. When the farm economy takes a downturn, farmers and ranchers need Farm Credit to be there for them.

It would be an honor to serve on the board of this agency that is responsible for keeping the system safe and sound and ensuring it fulfills its important mission, and I believe my education, career experience, and expertise, both as an attorney and in finance, qualify me for that position.

Although I left rural Oklahoma as a young man years ago, my love for rural America has not waned, and my desire to serve and give back is as strong as ever. If this Committee in its wisdom confirms my nomination, I will put my expertise and passion to work to ensure the success of the Farm Credit System and its mission to serve our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Logan can be found on page 35 in the appendix.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much.

Ms. Taylor, welcome again.

STATEMENT OF ALEXIS TAYLOR, NOMINEE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Ms. TAYLOR. Thank you. Good morning, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman and members of this Committee. Thank you for having me here today. A special thank you to Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst for that warm introduction.

It is an honor to be nominated by President Biden for the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. I am particularly humbled to be considered for this critical role by this Committee, which I hold in such high professional regard. I also would like to thank Secretary Vilsack for his dedicated leadership of USDA, as well as his support and mentorship over the years.

I would not be here today without the support of my family, including my mother, Karol, who is watching at home in Iowa. There have been no bigger champions in my life and my career, and I am grateful for their unconditional support. I also want to thank my sister, Amanda, who is here with me today, and brother-in-law, Ryan, who as farmers help to keep me connected to the opportunities and challenges faced by producers and our agricultural communities every day.

I am also thankful for the first and most influential farmer in my life, my father, Joe. Although he has passed, there is not a day that goes by where I do not call upon lessons he taught me on the farm from him.

As Senator Grassley mentioned, my career in agriculture began at a very young age, growing up on a farm which has been in my family for over 160 years. I learned many things growing up on my family's farm, from the hard work and long hours our producers put into raising a crop or keeping livestock healthy, to the challenges that unpredictable weather and volatile markets can bring. One of the most important things that was instilled in me as a child was a desire to give back to my community.

That desire drove me to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves, it drove me through eight years of military service, including a deployment to Iraq, and it drew me to my career in public service, working to advance the interests of the community I grew up in, U.S. agriculture.

While working on Capitol Hill at USDA previously or currently at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, some of my most meaningful work has been finding solutions to the complex challenges our farmers and ranchers face. Throughout my career, farmers and ranchers have shared those challenges with me from the cab of their pickup on a ranch tour in Montana, while walking a wheat field in Oregon, or riding in a combine during harvest in Iowa.

Should I have the honor to be confirmed, I will carry their stories with me as I work to advance the U.S. agriculture across the globe as I lead the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Mission Area (TFAA) and the dedicated staff at the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

As the diplomatic and humanitarian crisis has unfolded in Ukraine, the capacity-building and food security programs at USDA will be even more critical to helping the world navigate a growing global food security crisis.

The United States plays a critical role in combating food insecurity and working to protect the most vulnerable. I am proud of this part of the TFAA and FAS mission and will be committed to this work, should I have the privilege to serve.

At the same time, our producers here at home are experiencing unprecedented challenges. From supply chain disruptions impacting not only our food and agricultural exports but critical imports, to the impacts of inflation, these challenges are being felt directly by producers across the country. Ensuring strong export markets is critical to building resiliency for our agriculture sector.

Expanding and maintaining diversified market opportunities, rebuilding strong and reliable trading relationships, and holding our trading partners accountable is essential. Equally as important is removing trade barriers and working to ensure our trading partners have transparent, science-based regulatory requirements which are predictable for our exporters.

As I have seen from my current position at ODA, the Biden-Harris administration have made it clear that the country's trade agenda is focused on growing the economy and creating trade policy where agriculture is at the table. Should I be confirmed, I am eager to join in that effort, in coordination with USTR and other Federal agencies and Congress, to work to expand and maintain that diversified market access for U.S. producers and exporters, and help them connect with customers around the world.

Agriculture is not just what I do, but it is very much who I am. Working to support farmers and ranchers across the country is something I have dedicated my career to. Should I have the honor to be confirmed as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, I am committed to working to ensure the interests of U.S. agriculture is being represented here at home and around the globe.

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, thank you for the time, and I look forward to any questions that members of the Committee may have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Taylor can be found on page 37 in the appendix.]

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much, and we will now move to questions. First, Ms. Taylor, you and I have talked about the fact that fruit and vegetable growers in Michigan, and I am sure in other places around the country, continue to face challenge from subsidized imports that are undercutting our markets. This is really a challenge, I think, and a threat to our domestic food supply chain. It is very serious.

As Under Secretary for Trade, how will you work with other USDA agencies, others in the Biden administration to address this critical issue?

Ms. TAYLOR. Chairwoman Stabenow, thank you for that very important question. Obviously, being the director of a State Department of Agriculture in Oregon, which is also a specialty crop State, it is a concern I hear often from many in our specialty crop sector.

I think the approach is multi-pronged. I think, first and foremost, our producers are the most innovative in the world, so continuing to advocate for research, into innovation and technology advancements so they can remain competitive is extremely important.

I think continuing to support the work that you have really led on around building strong local and regional markets for our local producers. I think one of the things that the pandemic really, a positive that came out of it, is consumers, for the first time, are really interested in where their food comes from, and who is raising their food. I think we have an opportunity, as agriculture, to capitalize on that. I think continuing to expand that work around local and regional food systems is also extremely critical.

I think also working with our regulators to ensure that in those markets that are looking to export their products to the United States that our SPS health and safety standards and regulations are being followed and enforced.

Then finally, I think really—and this is the part where I think falls directly under my purview—is expanding markets for our specialty crop producers so they have strong, diverse export markets all over the world where they are also not facing unjustified SPS barriers and can really compete in those marketplaces.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much, and of course, trade enforcement is critical and markets are critical, and so we look forward to working with you on all of those issues that impact all of our farmers and communities.

Let me move to Dr. Esteban. Food safety, obviously, in your role you will play a really important role in public health, and you talked about coordination with other agencies. That is such an important thing, with the FDA, EPA and CDC, communicating with stakeholders, that are food and consumer safety groups, worker safety groups, livestock industry, and so on.

Could you talk more about how you would collaborate with other agencies and bring in stakeholders as you are making decisions?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you very much for that question. It is very important that we realize that we achieve a lot more by working together rather than by working independently. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity, when I was at CDC, to work with FDA and USDA, and now at USDA I work across all the agencies in USDA on specific topics. It is so, so positive when we get together and work together on something.

The challenges that we face today in food safety are not simple. They are actually very, very complex. We need to include everybody in this effort, whether it is local producers, whether it is the national distribution chains, whether it is for research, or whether it is for export. I think everything needs to be taken into account, with a goal to produce safe food.

If I were to be confirmed, I would do what I have done for the last 30 years, which is build on those relationships, with FDA, with EPA, and all the other agencies. I have now had experiences with a lot of very good people in leadership positions in those agencies, so we have a very strong relationship. We just need to have a single focus. In my opinion, there is no more important single focus other than food safety, public health.

I think that by building those coalitions we can achieve anything we want.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Mr. Logan, when we did our initial farm bill hearings this year, both in Michigan and Arkansas, we heard a lot about the importance of access to credit for beginning farmers. We want more people going into agriculture.

How can the Farm Credit System further serve young people, beginning farmers, small farmers so that we create more opportunities for people that want to get into agriculture?

Mr. LOGAN. Yes. Thank you for that question, Senator. You know, I have spent a lot of my career working with young people. I know the future lies with young people and getting young people into various industries, and that same holds true for agriculture. I understand the challenges that they have, and I work with an organization that has a lot of young people there, and they all have an agriculture background. It is very difficult.

I will say, you know, my background is in institutional advisory and institutional practices, and I was, quite frankly, not able to look under the hood yet at the FCA. I understand that all institutions in the system have young, beginning, and small farmers plans. As a regulator, though, I look forward to reviewing these plans, with my colleagues on the board.

Another piece to that is that I have to ensure that the system holds adequate capital for these young, beginning, and small farmers, and that that is within the mission of the FCA.

I am certainly open to meeting anyone and to hearing ideas, and I am a strong believer in dialog, and I am willing to do that. But certainly, you know, my mission is to make sure that the system is safe and sound and that credit is available, and that it is a dependable source of credit.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Well, thank you very much. Senator Boozman.

Senator BOOZMAN. Thank you, Madam Chair. Ms. Taylor, I enjoyed our visit earlier yesterday and talking about several issues, including holding India accountable at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for their illegal rice and wheat subsidies, and I really look forward to working with that. That is such an important issue.

The role of the Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs was created to really elevate the Department of Agriculture's presence in such an important effort. It is our hope that as the top trade voice at USDA you will advise the U.S. Trade Rep, the Department of Commerce, and others on the impacts of various issues and market access needs of farmers and agricultural stakeholders directly.

How will you work with the many other agencies that hold responsibilities over U.S. trade functions?

Ms. TAYLOR. Senator Boozman, thank you for that question. I think it is a very important one.

We often talk about trading relationships, and I think that is intentional. Trade is still very much about relationships, and one of the things I am very interested in doing is, should I have the privilege to be confirmed, building those relationships with sister agencies at USTR, at the Department of Commerce, and engaging about

the priorities for U.S. agriculture. I hope not to just have them sitting at the table, but really be driving the policy that they need to see from the Biden-Harris administration to deliver meaningful market access and competitive markets.

I think investing in those relationships will be key, and something I am certainly committed to, should I have the privilege to serve.

Senator BOOZMAN. Very good. Thank you.

Dr. Esteban, USDA recently announced action to declare salmonella an adulterant in stuffed poultry products while also announcing plans to solicit comments on the appropriate salmonella standard in all poultry, ranging from zero tolerance to focusing on specific serotypes.

Food safety is an absolutely vital mission in USDA. Dr. Esteban, if confirmed as Under Secretary, how would you approach this endeavor, taking into mind the numerous factors that must be weighed, including prevalence, risk, food waste, sustainability, and food insecurity?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Senator, thank you for asking me that question because I am extremely passionate about the topic of salmonella. I mean, as a public health professional for over 30 years, first at CDC, seeing the outcome of salmonellosis, and not USDA, on the regulatory side, there is so much more we could do.

I mean, we have made tremendous progress in decreasing the contamination level of the product over the course of the last 20 years, but we have not been able to impact much illness. There are about 1.3 million Americans that get sick with salmonella every year, and we have the ability and opportunity to do a lot better.

Now if it were a simple answer we would have already done it, right? This has got to be a very complex issue, and I think that what the agency is doing with this announcement of considering salmonella as an adulterant in this one specific commodity, at a very, very low level, is sending a message that we are serious about salmonella.

That said, it is important as we move forward we take into account not only the outcome of it but how we get there. How we get there is by actually including industry, including consumers, including academia, including all the Federal partners that we have to work together to create a framework. I expect that over the next few weeks or months the agency will come up with a framework that actually encompasses, not just focused on the last point of the chain, which is at the consumer level, but from the beginning.

It is my expectation that we will address the quality of product that has to be presented for slaughter, control during the slaughter process and with the processing of the food, as well as the final product. However that is not enough. We need to continue to work with consumers, about the proper handling, storage, and preparing of that food.

The answer to some of the question is going to be one that is going to be bring everybody together. It is a complex answer, but we will certainly make progress.

Senator BOOZMAN. Well, we appreciate that, and I know that you will use science and good common sense along with that. Salmonella is difficult.

Mr. Logan, we appreciate you being here. I know the Osage Nation is very proud of you. We appreciate also your relationship to Little Rock.

Inflation and rising input costs are having an immense impact on farmers and ranchers. Inflation-adjusted net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability, is projected to fall by nearly \$1 billion, or 1 percent, from 2021, to \$148 billion. This is despite record-high cash receipts from the sales of crops and livestock.

How do you see the role of the Farm Credit Administration, and more broadly the Farm Credit System supporting farmers and ranchers in times of uncertainty? You know, when they showed me, as we were getting things together yesterday, I was really shocked at the indebtedness. You know, I knew that the latest numbers really are shocking with the high interest rates and things, how much farm families, farmers are having to indebted themselves at a record high pace. Again, what are we going to be doing?

Mr. LOGAN. Thank you for that question, Senator. A few quick thoughts and then I will get to the meat of it. I was contacted by the White House about this position a year ago this week, and the outlook for the economy and inflation and productivity looked vastly different than it does right now. There really is not anyone that has a crystal ball that can predict what it is going to look like next October.

I listened to Chair Powell's comments yesterday. We are, you know, certainly in a period of uncertain times, and that is affecting everyone, and farmers and ranchers that produce our food and feed the world, they all see this. I think about what the system can do, as you asked.

Well, the first and foremost is we have to ensure that the system is safe and sound, that credit is available, and that it is well capitalized for creditworthy borrowers.

There is some limited investment authority, but overall, for young and beginning and small farmers who are just critical to the future of agriculture and to this country, you know, I would be happy to speak to anyone, to you or your staff, or any of the other Senators about perhaps expanded authorities, new ways of thinking.

You know, as a regulator I am going to ensure that we stay within the law and the given regulations right now, but that does not say that when things happen and there are global issues and global problems, you know, that we do not consider these things and take a look and re-examine what we have.

Senator BOOZMAN. Well, thank you very much, and I yield back, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much, Senator Boozman.

I believe we have Senator Klobuchar with us on WebEx. Good morning.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Thank you very much to both of you for this good hearing, and all the nominees.

Minnesota ranks in the top 10 nationally in the number of dairy cows and milk produced. We have more than 3,000 dairy farms across Minnesota that depend on foreign markets. We also are one of the biggest ag exporters overall.

Ms. Taylor, as Under Secretary, how will you promote additional foreign market access for dairy producers and other ag exporters, particular in Asia?

Ms. TAYLOR. Senator Klobuchar, thank you for that question. Having grown up in Iowa, in the dairy part of the State, many of my friends and neighbors grew up on dairy farms and were dairy men and women, and I know how important international export markets are increasingly becoming to them.

Should I have the privilege to be confirmed, I am very interested in engaging within in the Administration on their trade priorities, in particular, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. I think there are huge opportunities for our agriculture sector in this part of the world. They have a fast-growing middle class, there is a lot of purchasing power that is coming online, and they have generally young populations. I am thinking about countries like Vietnam. The ability to capitalize and make consumers now, you can build lifelong consumers. I am very interested in engaging with dairy producers in your State on their priorities and bringing that to the table.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Thank you. One really fast answer, if you could. I applaud the U.S. for winning the USMCA dispute settlement panel earlier this year over Canada's rate quotas. It sent a strong message to our trading partners in initiating a second panel.

Ms. Taylor, will you commit to working with your colleagues as USTR in supporting the panel proceedings and using enforcement mechanisms? Just yes or no is fine.

Ms. TAYLOR. Yes, Senator. Absolutely. Thank you.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Excellent.

Animal diseases is for you, Dr. Esteban. In the last farm bill I worked the Chair and Ranking Member and most significantly with my colleague, Senator Cornyn, to ensure that USDA has the capacity to prevent, monitor, and rapidly respond to outbreaks, whether it is any kind of animal disease, including avian flu, which we have had a recent breakout of.

How would you ensure that FSIS is working in a collaborative manner with other USDA mission areas like Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you, Senator. Well, as a veterinarian and one that has actually had the opportunity to deal with some of these diseases firsthand there is no better opportunity for us to address outbreaks before they become outbreaks, when they just are starting, by working together with our APHIS colleagues.

We are, every day, at the slaughter plants, at the processing establishments. Our veterinarians are in the field. Of our 8,800 employees, about 7,700 of them are in the field. We have firsthand experience and observation by doing antemortem and postmortem inspection of all its animals to identify when it first happens and before it becomes a big issue.

If I have the honor of being confirmed, I would definitely reach out to my colleagues in APHIS and see how we can strengthen the already strong relationships and actually improve on our surveillance mechanisms.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. One other thing that you will be involved in is small and medium-sized meat processors. I think you know the problems we had during the pandemic with our supply chain. The Administration has been working on this. We have been working at it on the Committee to make sure that there are competitive alternatives available. What steps will you take to ensure that the needs of small and mid-sized meat processors are met?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you, Senator. Yes, this Administration has been very strong in trying to develop growth for the small and medium-sized farmers. As I said before, FSIS needs to be present at all those processing establishments. This is an opportunity for us to work with our colleagues in the rest of USDA in trying to transfer knowledge, transfer technology, have guidelines, and have an open-door policy so anything that they have, that they need to actually get up to be competitive, that we are there for them.

Our goal is to basically provide anything they would need to support the investment the U.S. is making in this part of the market, to make sure that they are competitive.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. I am not going to ask my other question. I will put one on the record. I did want to make sure that you knew, Dr. Esteban, that early on in the Senate I worked really hard on getting some centers of excellence in terms of being able to trace foodborne illnesses. The University of Minnesota was one of those.

We are very, very proud of the work that we did and we are doing in that area. We have had a number of deaths across the country, whether it is from peanut butter. We had a woman die in our State. There were prosecutions of that manufacturing facility afterwards. Someone went to prison. We also had other things that were more innocent that happened, and it is really important to stop these in their tracks when we find them. I appreciate your work on food safety. Thank you.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Senator Ernst.

Senator ERNST. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and we will start with you, Ms. Taylor. Again, thank you so much for being here today, and I am very happy for your nomination, and the others as well. Thank you very much for joining us.

I am concerned that the Biden administration is foregoing America's trade and strategic leadership by failing to aggressively pursue a number of commitments, whether it is through the Indo-Pacific economic framework or through the decision not to go after comprehensive free trade agreements. The lack of ambitious market-opening initiatives not only disadvantages our U.S. workers, our farmers, ranchers, and businesses, but it also jeopardizes America's competitiveness and security in the long term.

Later today I intend to introduce a bipartisan bill with Senators Tina Smith and Angus King to increase support for market access program and foreign market development. While these do not necessarily fall under your mission area at the USDA, can you please detail what would you do, should you be confirmed, to advance U.S. agricultural exports, and how will you work with Ambassador Tai and others in the Administration to make sure that we do focus on ag trade barriers, and especially in the area of the Indo-Pacific?

Ms. TAYLOR. Senator Ernst, thank you for that important question. I will start maybe with the MAP and FMD funding. Those are critical tools that Congress has given to USDA to administer for our exporters. The Oregon Department of Agriculture today actually accesses some of those dollars and conducts international activities to support Western States' companies.

Exporting to other countries is complicated. There are language barriers. There are cultural differences. There are confusing SPS requirements. Those tools are so vital for our exporters to get into that market and build those trading relationships, which I talked about.

I think, and a priority of mine should I be confirmed, I am really interested in engaging within the Administration to really have our producers, our farmers and ranchers, help drive our trade priorities. As I mentioned earlier, there is a lot of excitement, I think, and opportunity in the Indo-Pacific region, and I am interested in engaging on what meaningful market access might look like there, enforceable standards for our agricultural community that then they can rely on, and ensuring then that we are enforcing those standards when those commitments are not being lived up to, and really addressing non-tariff barrier, because those oftentimes can get thrown up in unjustified ways for our agricultural exports, making sure that those are science-based, those are clear and predictable.

And so, I am very committed and interested, should I have the privilege to serve, and really focusing some of my time within the Administration and colleagues at USTR.

Senator ERNST. Wonderful. I am glad you bring up science-based as well. As you hopefully will work with Ambassador Tai and others in the Administration we do need to ensure, through your role as well, that science-based regulatory requirements are enforced—and I am glad you bring that up—especially when it comes to GMO corn and glyphosate trade, and in particular with Mexico. Can you maybe address how we turn then to this hemisphere and address those issues with Mexico?

Ms. TAYLOR. Yes. Thank you for that question, Senator Ernst. Kind of taking a step back from that discrete issue for a moment, we have huge challenges we are experiencing globally. The war in Ukraine and the global food insecurity crisis, that is really exacerbating, coming off the heels of the global pandemic. Climate change and the impacts to production. I see it in Oregon. I know your farmers in Iowa have experienced, as we are seeing changes and challenges with production based upon that all over the world.

We are going to need advancements in science and technology globally to address those challenges and continue to feed a growing world population. I think that is the fundamental principle to work from.

Should I be confirmed, I am very interested I engaging within the Administration on what is going on in Mexico around biotechnology, and my counterparts in Mexico to ensure that we are advancing science-based decisionmaking around the use of these critical tools that are necessary to meet those global challenges.

Senator ERNST. Excellent, and I really appreciate your answer, science-based as always, and I look forward to supporting your confirmation. Thank you.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Next we will have Senator Smith, and then Senator Fischer.

Senator SMITH. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member, and thank you to all of our nominees for being here today. Thank you for your willingness to serve, and I look forward to supporting you.

I want to start out with a question that I almost always start out with. Minnesota has a very diverse farm economy, including many Hmong native, Latino, Somali, and Black farmers, who play a really integral role in the farm economy in Minnesota, as well as in our small business sector. Yet I often hear that the USDA does not do enough to connect with these farmers of color and communities of color, generally.

I always ask this question, which is what can the USDA do, what should the USDA be doing, internally and externally, to remove barriers facing farmers of color as well as business owners of color? Could all of you just address that briefly?

Ms. TAYLOR. I will go up first, Senator Smith. Thank you for that really important question.

In Oregon, at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, we have been investing a lot of our time in this space—how do we reach our producers of color? One of the things we have really discovered is there has to be an intentionality behind it. One example. We administer a small equipment and infrastructure grant program for producers who want to access the Oregon farm-to-school program. We realized there is also small Somali agricultural community.

What our staff decided to do one time on the announcement is actually translate it for them. What we heard from community leaders was they had seen the grant before, they never felt like it was for them, and they put in an application because we had translated it. I think that intentional approach and engagement with those community leaders is so critical, and should I be confirmed I am very interested in bringing that intentionality to the programs at the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Senator SMITH. Thank you. Would the other panelists please comment?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you, Senator. You know, working with the States has been one of those things that I have had more fun with than ever in my career. When I was at CDC I spent a lot of time in the States, especially in Minnesota. They had the best group of people working over there on food safety and outbreak control.

You are right. I think that the efforts that we do locally are going to be reflecting what happens in the Nation.

What I would do, if I were to have the honor of being confirmed, is I would actually try to take all those things that we have learned at the State level or at the Federal level and bring it to the local level. If that includes translation of materials, making it available, hands-on training, having open houses, all those things are tools, that the closer we get to that community the more effective we are with those messages.

The bottom line should be the food should be safe. By getting to them, they will learn, and there will be a food culture, and that will evolve into a much larger productivity cycle.

Senator SMITH. Thank you. Mr. Logan?

Mr. LOGAN. Yes, Senator. Thank you for that question. If I have the honor of being confirmed to this position with the FCA I will look at various ways of addressing people who are underserved, of course. I am Native American. I know the struggle that tribal and individual Native American farmers and ranchers have and the access to capital. I am going to ensure that the system is safe and sound, but it also has to be equitable, and I think we all agree on that, for the strength of the country and for the strength of feeding people.

USDA aside, I will personally work with anyone, if I am confirmed, on new ideas for addressing farmers of color, and in particular, of course, with the community that I know well, Native American.

Senator SMITH. Thank you very much.

Dr. Esteban, I am very supportive of the Biden administration's actions and this Congress' actions to increase investment in support for small meat and poultry processing, and the concerns that we have about the intense consolidation in the processing sector, and what the implications for that across the whole range of areas, including food safety.

I want to just come to the question specifically of expanding access to food processing for tribal governments. This is an area of real interest for Minnesota's sovereign tribal nations. Dr. Esteban, the Food Safety Inspection Service has broad discretion here to work with processing plants of all sizes. Can you commit to me that, if confirmed, you would work with tribal governments through the process of assisting them as they set up and operate and inspect their own meat processing facilities?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Thank you, Senator, and I think what you just described is actually the way FSIS already works. We are very committed to helping those small and medium-sized plants to buildup. There is no reason that the size should matter in how we treat them, whether they are a small or large producers. They are as important because they are contributing to the local economy.

I will commit to you that the FSIS will work, making no difference regardless of size, on how we treat any of the stakeholders. The food should be safe, the employees should be safe, and the business should be viable.

Senator SMITH. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you. Senator Fischer.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ms. Taylor, it was nice to meet with you yesterday, and I appreciated the conversation we had about expanding trade, getting into trade agreements, how important the export market is to American agriculture. We discussed the Indo-Pacific region. We also talked about issues that affect Nebraska corn growers, specifically to Mexico. When you look at the amount of white corn that Nebraska exports, it is half of the white corn in the United States.

Mexico has been a top destination for Nebraska's corn, including white corn, but I have deep concerns over Mexico's policy on ag bio-

technology. They are set to ban biotech corn as soon as January 2024, and this policy is definitely out of step with the commitments that were put in the USMCA. If left unaddressed, these policies and processes that are related to ag biotech will harm economies on both side of the U.S.-Mexico border.

We have heard there have been some good conversations with the Mexican officials, but we have not seen an actions from that. I would ask you, if confirmed, will you work with your USTR counterparts to enforce the USMCA's biotechnology provisions, and if necessary, to advocate for the United States to take enforcement action?

Ms. TAYLOR. Thank you, Senator Fischer, and I also enjoyed our conversation yesterday, so thank you for the time.

I think the underlying point here is about using science to make informed regulatory decisions. That is how we do it in the United States. That is our expectation of our trading partners around the world. Should I be confirmed, I think this is an issue I would like to look at further, certainly engage within the Administration, and engage with counterparts in Mexico on this important topic.

As I mentioned earlier, we face huge global challenges while we are trying to increase production, to feed a growing world population, with some pretty big challenges that are impacting production today.

Senator FISCHER. If our trade agreements are not being met, if provisions are being violated—you know, and that is specific to the USMCA—conversations are good. I hope we can continue to have conversations with the Mexican government. They have duties. They have responsibilities to those agreements. Will you push them and our Administration to make sure that they meet them?

Ms. TAYLOR. Senator, I think fundamentally enforcement of commitments that are made to U.S. producers, to the U.S., is critical to trade policy that works for our farmers. This is an issue, in particular, with Mexico, on biotechnology of corn that I want to look into further, should I have the privilege to be confirmed, and I certainly am committed to working with you and your office on this question.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you. Dr. Esteban, BSE is more commonly known as mad cow disease, and it can certainly upend any domestic markets and also cause disruptions in our international trade when it is found in the country's beef supply. World Organization for Animal Health requires any BSE infections to be reported within 24 hours, but last June, when we saw atypical BSE found in two Brazil beef-packing plants, Brazil did not report that until September.

After it was finally reported there were several industry groups that called on the USDA to halt imports from Brazil for their beef into the United States until the agency had conducted their own assessment of Brazil's processes that were used to assure food safety.

Are you aware, sir, of any efforts by the USDA to conduct their own assessment of Brazil's food safety standards?

Dr. ESTEBAN. Senator, thank you for that question. I am very familiar with BSE. I have actually seen cases of BSE, so I know what it can cause and the damage it can cause to industry. I am not fa-

miliar, or I cannot answer specifically at this point the question of whether we are doing some active surveillance. If I were to be confirmed, I would look to the staff that is working on this and ask that specific question.

I do know, and I can share with you that we have a very, very unique equivalency system established for importing beef, and that requires for us to do audits onsite of countries that we import from. We follow all those regulations and rules before we actually allow imported food into this country.

That is what I can say for now, and I would look further, if I were to be confirmed, I would followup with your staff and look further into that detail.

Senator FISCHER. Yes, that would be great because when we are dealing with other countries who are not following the rules, and you are looking at a situation with possible BSE coming into the United States, think of the hardship on producers but also the huge economic impact on the United States' economy if we would have to shut down. Thank you, sir.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Senator Tuberville.

Senator TUBERVILLE. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you all for being here today, and congratulations on your nominations and your sacrifice for doing what you are doing, because it is a sacrifice.

I would like to say first, you know, I am from a State of 60 percent agriculture, Alabama, as a lot of States are, especially in the South. We are struggling. We are losing family farms almost weekly. I am concerned about that. It is getting worse and worse, you know, with the EPA, the climate change activists, identity policies, and all the politics that are throwing on our farmers, they just want to raise food for our country.

Sooner or later, as we noticed with this pandemic, we are probably going to have to be self-sufficient. Corporations do a great job, but the heart and soul of our country is our family farms, the heartbeat. I mean, that is what it is all about. We are losing, and I would hope all three of you would challenge and make sure that we stand up for our farmers, in every State, all over this country, because they are struggling.

I get calls weekly about "we are not going to make it." The price of fuel, people telling them what they can do, cannot do, that they have done for years, and our kids, would you want your kids to get in this business if you had been in a family farm for years, and it has been passed down but their kids cannot make a living. I mean, it is really sad.

I will get off my soapbox, but I just hope all of three of you, in your purview, you just stand up for them. Stand up for our family farms, and hopefully we can get through this tough time, because times are going to get tougher, as we all know, especially with our food, water, and our energy supply.

Mr. Logan, your position is responsible for maintaining safe, sound, and dependable sources of credit for eligible farmers. How do you believe your prior position has prepared you for this?

Mr. LOGAN. Thank you for that question, Senator. You know, I come from a legal perspective, of course, corporate legal, but in

credit. When I moved into the asset side of the balance sheet into asset management I realized that if you are an investor at the level that I was, particularly when I was a Federal official, we had an account of \$5.4 billion, you have an obligation, you have protocols to stick with the law and the regulations and to follow the regulations. My personal experience as an institutional advisor, I can tell you that we do not chase returns. If the market is down 1 day we do not change everything. We stay within our policies.

I actually speak on this topic. I call it the Five P's—principles, what are mission procedures, your protocols, policies. You have given me the last one, the posture. We stand up for the farmers and ranchers. That is the fifth P, is what posture, if I am confirmed to this position, that I will take. I will stand up for the farmers and ranchers.

Yes, FCA is a huge system, and yes, it is very expensive out there, and with inflation it is a very complex issue. I will do what I can do if I am confirmed to this position.

Senator TUBERVILLE. Do you have any priorities in the next farm bill that you have looked at? Any concerns?

Mr. LOGAN. We did not go into the farm bill as much, but I will tell you one thing. My career is about young people, and the young people, the future of agriculture, with the YBS programs at FCA, I will focus on that if I am confirmed to this position. We have to help young people, and beginning farmers, and small farmers. That is where I will personally focus on. The system, they need to have credit available for them, so that is my main job right there, to make sure the system is, as you said, safe and sound.

Senator TUBERVILLE. Right. Being that you went to Oklahoma State in Oklahoma, you have a tough time during a backyard brawl. What do you do—hide at home?

[Laughter.]

Senator TUBERVILLE. Yes, Okay. I understand.

I have got a few other questions for the record, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Absolutely. Yes, thank you, Senator. Next we have Senator Luján, and then Senator Hyde-Smith.

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and thank you to both you and the Ranking Member for bringing us together today and for this conversation, for each and every one of you, for accepting the willingness to be before this Committee, but accepting the responsibility, if confirmed, that you will embark on for the good of the country. I thank you very, very much.

Now from a specialty crop perspective—and I appreciate the questions the Chair has already engaged in this space—New Mexico prides itself on being a national leader for many crops. One of them that everyone thinks of when they look at New Mexico is chile—and you can remind my brothers and sisters from Colorado that I said that—and nuts, which often surprise many when I am visiting with them about our production, whether it is pistachios, but the conversation I want to have with you is around pecans.

Crops like pecans, Ms. Taylor, have historically struggled to gain international market access and unfair import tariffs that similar crops just do not have. Now these tariffs undermine our ability to diversify export markets and create uncertainty for farmers back home who want to be able to grow a financially viable crop.

If confirmed, how do you plan to promote and increase export market access for specialty crop products, and if you are able to touch on pecans specifically?

Ms. TAYLOR. Senator, thank you for that question. Having worked in Oregon for the past five and a half years, Oregon is also a specialty crop State. I work closely with our various sectors to ensure that they have the promotional opportunities to highlight their products in international markets, whether that be through the various marketing assistance programs that we are able to access via USDA today, but also work to ensure that their products have a level playing field, that they are following science-based decisions on SPS health and safety import requirements.

I am very engaged, should I be confirmed, of looking at the specialty crop sector for pecan producers in your State and where are their top markets. I would like to understand that. What are some of the current hurdles and challenges that they are experiencing, and how can we pull the tools that we have at USDA and within the U.S. Government to help them expand into those markets.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate, and working with our colleagues here to makes sure they have had a chance to have their palate excited by our chile and our pecans and our nuts as well. You all will fall in love with it.

The next question, Senator Tuberville touched on this, and Mr. Logan, you responded, around the younger farmers, the challenges inherently in there. As we know, many of our farmers and ranchers are aging, and there are challenges generationally throughout the United States. We are experiencing this in New Mexico.

According to the last USDA agriculture census, 30 percent of New Mexico's farmers and ranchers identify as Hispanic or Latino, 21 percent identify as American Indian. Diversity matters to me as well, and as I have always said, diversity is our strength but we are also seeing a decline in diversity within production as well.

As a Farm Credit Administration board member, how will you work to increase credit opportunities for historically underserved communities?

Mr. LOGAN. Thank you for that question, Senator. With my work with the Native American Agriculture Fund I can tell you that we serve nationwide native communities, in particular the Pueblo communities. We work with them. We understand the importance of diversity, as you said, and we try to think of different ways, new solutions, different ways of viewing things to get capital out to farmers and ranchers, and in particular, to work with young people.

I will say that my personal/professional work has been in financial education and investment education. If I am confirmed in this position, I believe there is a need for credit education. To become creditworthy is critical. It is critical, and it is very difficult, actually, for young people to understand all the pieces of credit. The entire system is premised upon working with creditworthy borrowers.

You know, like I said, I did not look under the hood for the FCA yet, but I understand that there are ways of working with young borrowers, and there are programs, and I have got to make sure that they are being followed, the programs are being followed, and doing what they promised to do.

My personal view is that it is credit and understanding how credit works, you know, it is just critical for everyone right now, and in particular for borrowers of color.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. Chair Stabenow, as I see my time has expired, I do have some questions for Dr. Esteban. I will submit them into the record. It is around Country of Origin Labeling, "Product of the USA" labeling, things of that nature. My question stems from if I go buy an avocado I know where it comes from. I know where it was produced. Not always true with beef.

I will submit those into the record, but I wanted to say thank you again for being here, and I look forward to following up. Thank you, Chair Stabenow.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you so much, and important questions to follow up on. Thank you so much.

Next we have Senator Hyde-Smith, and then I believe Senator Braun will go next. Thank you.

Senator HYDE-SMITH. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member Boozman, for holding this meeting, and thank you to all three of you for being willing to step up and offer yourselves in these positions. I have been impressed with what I have heard today.

My question is for Ms. Taylor. First of all, I want to say how I admire you, and that we have been on a trade mission together and you were a true leader, and I was very impressed by that.

One of the things I want to talk about with Mississippi is we are proud to be one of the top rice producers in the entire country. Rice production in the Southeast generates hundreds of millions in economic output annually and helps put affordable food on our plates, both at home and abroad.

The producers in Mississippi and across the country continue to operate at a disadvantage to major competitors like India, which over-subsidizes their farmers and violate world trade organization obligations.

If confirmed as Under Secretary, will you help lead the charge at USDA and work closely with the Office of the United States Trade Representative to ensure that our domestic producers operate on a level playing field with foreign producers? I am not asking for anything else, just what is level. If confirmed, what are your plans toward securing new trade deals and expanding markets overseas, and will you work with both the USDA Foreign Agriculture Services and U.S. Codex Office with your jurisdiction to ensure that science-based policies remain the backbone of our international trade institutions?

I know that was a lot in one, but I know you can handle it too.

Ms. TAYLOR. Well, thank you for those kind words, Senator Hyde-Smith. I also enjoyed our time in Hong Kong and Shanghai when we went on that trade mission.

I think first, one of my, I think, fundamentals around trade policy is ensuring that we are enforcing existing commitments that have been made to the United States, regardless if that is in a bilateral, multilateral or plurilateral sense such as the WTO. Should I be confirmed, I am very interested in looking into this issue, engaging with your rice producers in Mississippi, and your office on this issue, to look at it further.

I think on the question of new trade deals, what I am very interested in are a couple of fundamentals to bring to the conversations within the Administration around what is meaningful market access for a cross-section and diversity of U.S. agricultural products that are producing and exporting, how do we address non-tariff barriers and ensure that science-based regulatory processes and decisionmaking is being implemented within those various trading partners, and then having enforceable standards within those trade commitments. Then the final step is ensuring that when commitments are not being made or lived up to, that have been made to U.S. producers, that we are then enforcing those standards that we have negotiated.

That is kind of the fundamental approach that I want to bring to the conversations around the trade policy for the Administration.

Then finally, as you mentioned, with the reorganization, the Codex Office has moved under the TFAA mission area, and fundamentally that body has helped bring science-based clarity for food products for the international export market. Keeping that science-based decisionmaking in conversations that are rooted in science is absolutely paramount and something I am very committed to, should I be confirmed.

Senator HYDE-SMITH. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Senator Braun.

Senator BRAUN. Thank you, Madam Chair. Ms. Taylor, I enjoyed our conversation yesterday. We covered a broad array of subjects. This one is particular to my home State of Indiana and other poultry-producing States.

Indiana is one of the top poultry producers in the country—layers, turkeys, ducks, the whole works. We have been hit hard by the HPAI outbreak this year.

As you know, situations like this can have a significant not only current impact but long term as well, because when you have to remediate it, it is basically you know what the solution is. It disrupts things big time, so it means that we have to be alert, we have to be preemptive, do whatever we can to try to keep it at bay.

Since the first case was confirmed in February, I have worked closely with APHIS and our State agencies in Indiana to ensure that Hoosier producers have markets for their poultry along with this challenge. Looking forward, I believe the U.S. should probably do more to be preemptive, to be proactive, because once these hit, the alternatives are not good. They are bleak.

What steps will you take to be proactive, to adopt that kind of healthy paranoia, maybe you might call it, in trading that you are going to be in charge of, in face of this challenge that does impact it?

Ms. TAYLOR. Thank you for that question. I think it is an important one. As Director at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), dealing with high-path avian influenza is something that we are dealing with in Oregon as well. Oregon State Veterinarian is actually under ODA, so this is, unfortunately, an issue that I am very familiar with this year as well.

I think, first and foremost, working with the regulators at APHIS to ensure that they have the resources and the tools that

they need to quarantine when there is an HPAI-positive case, and then communicating with our trading partners when there is one, so we can ensure that we have an appropriate regionalized quarantine zone around that, and it does not impact the entire production of the State. I think that is very important.

I think on the proactive side, communicating with our trading partners who are highly sensitive, oftentimes, to high-path avian influenza before we start seeing cases in the United States. This is not the first time we have experienced it. Unfortunately, it will not be the last. I think having that open communication and open dialog with our trading partners that is rooted in the science of it is going to be critically important and something I am interested in engaging in also with you and your office and your State, should I have the privilege to be confirmed.

Senator BRAUN. I am glad to hear that because I know a lot of poultry producers are on edge, not only in our State, and to have someone like you that addresses it as a significant issue and will do everything within your capability to be proactive, I think that is going to be soothing to many that are still wanting to get this in the rear-view mirror. It does seem to raise its ugly head too often. Thank you.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much. Senator Hoeven was next. I am not sure—

He will be coming back. In the meantime, Senator Thune.

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member Boozman, and thanks for having the hearing to consider these nominations, and thank you all for your willingness to appear before this Committee and your willingness to serve in these positions.

Before I start my questions I just want to again voice frustration that I have expressed now for a year and a half that we are this far into the current Administration and we are just now considering the nominee for USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Affairs, and we still do not have a Chief Ag Negotiator in place at USTR. The fact that the Administration has failed to prioritize these nominations for what I think are very important roles, there is just no excuse for it. Our nation's agricultural producers have been without a leading voice on the global stage for way too long, and so I hope we get these nominations across the finish line and get a focus on the issues that really matter to American agriculture, one of which obviously is trade.

Ms. Taylor, as you know, cattle producers in South Dakota, Iowa, and across the country work hard each day to produce high-quality beef. Americans know this, and they want to know where their food is coming from, which is why I have been a longtime supporter of mandatory Country of Origin Labeling, something that we have passed at least twice in the time that I have been in Congress. Each time it gets challenged at the WTO, and we all run for cover.

That has got to stop. We need a mandatory Country of Origin Labeling regime in place, once and for all, one that our trade negotiators are willing to go to the WTO and defend.

When we introduced this bill earlier this year, the American Beef Labeling Act, we did it in a way that would allow the Office of

USTR and USDA to develop a WTO-compliant means of reinstating MCOOL for beef.

I still cannot understand why in the world, in this country, everything that we wear, everything that we have on today has a label on it. We require labeling on everything in this country except the thing we put in the center of our plate. This has got to change.

I want to know, if confirmed, will you commit to work with me and my staff on finding a path forward on Country of Origin Labeling to help address the concerns not only of South Dakotans but I think of all Americans who want to know where their beef is coming from?

Ms. TAYLOR. Thank you for that question, Senator Thune. I think it is a really important one. It is a question and comment I hear often from Oregon ranchers. I hear it from my own family, who raise livestock and raise cattle in Iowa.

Should I be confirmed, I am absolutely committed to working with you and USTR on a path that brings Country of Origin Labeling for our producers but also for our consumers in a way that is WTO-compliant.

Senator THUNE. Okay. Thank you. Madam Chair, I would say Senator Tester and I have this bill. I hope that as we consider the next farm bill we can get this incorporated in there. It is high time that we, once and for all, settle this issue about whether or not the United States of America is going to not only support its producers in enabling them to differentiate their products but also give the American consumer the option of purchasing beef that they know has been born, raised, and harvested here in the United States. That has got to happen, and I hope we can get that done in this farm bill.

Ms. Taylor, I am also concerned about the Administration's lack of attention to expanding markets for U.S. agricultural products, and I will again use the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or IPEF. It fails to include market access. For generations, a large part of our Nation's economic success has been based on the U.S. advocating for more, not fewer, open markets. As a result, U.S. farm and food product exports have grown substantially in recent decades, which has largely been due to greater market access opportunities for American exporters.

Under this Administration, however, there are no trade agreements under discussion or efforts underway to meaningfully increase market access for U.S. ag products. That is a problem. There is some low-hanging fruit out there. There are some deals I think that get done fairly quickly. I want to know, if confirmed, what actions you intend to take to advocate for market access opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers, and will you advocate for reauthorization of trade promotion authority, something that this Administration has not requested, and which many of us on both sides of the aisle, I think, would support?

We have got to have market access opportunities, tariff reductions that would benefit U.S. agricultural interests. I do not see it coming out of this Administration, in any form, and I want to know what you are going to do about it.

Ms. TAYLOR. Thank you, Senator, for that question. I think there are a couple of components that, should I be confirmed, I am inter-

ested in engaging with members of this Committee and the agriculture community and producers in your State around priority markets.

Then you mentioned the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. I think that is a very exciting region of the world, certainly for U.S. agriculture. There is a lot of opportunity. Should I be confirmed, I am interested in understanding the agriculture community's priorities in engaging within the Administration on what does meaningful market access look like for our producers, what does addressing non-tariff barriers look like in that framework, and how do we bring about enforcement mechanisms to ensure that we can hold those partners accountable should they not live up to those commitments? That, collectively, is absolutely a priority for me when engaging within the Administration, should I be confirmed.

Senator THUNE. It is a huge market opportunity. That region of the world also would act as a check-and-balance against China's influence. The fact that we are not present there is a great concern not only on a trade and economic basis but also on a national security basis.

I hope you focus like a laser on that and try and deal with what I think is this Administration's reluctance to actually put deals in place that deal with the issue of market access, which is critical. Thank you.

Chairwoman STABENOW. Thank you very much, Senator Thune.

There is a vote in process on the floor so we will wrap up today and thank again our three nominees for being here today. I strongly support each and every one of you in your nominations moving forward. I know, as you can see from today, there is strong bipartisan support from the Committee, which speaks to each of you and the quality of your nominations.

This concludes the hearing. The record will remain open until tomorrow at 5 p.m. for members to submit additional questions or statements. The meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:42 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Opening Statement of Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban, Nominee for Under Secretary for Food Safety,
Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
September 22, 2022**

Remarks as Prepared

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my nomination to be Under Secretary for Food Safety at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

I want to also thank all those who are responsible for my success in life, especially my family and the many women and men with whom I have served during my tenure as a Federal employee. A special thanks to my wife Mandy, my son Joseph, and daughter Emily. I continue to learn every day from them. I would also like to thank President Biden for nominating me to serve as Under Secretary and Secretary Vilsack for his trust and support. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Vilsack and Congress to ensure a safe and nutritious food supply for all consumers.

When I migrated to the United States in 1985, I would have never envisioned the breadth and magnitude of the opportunities this country would offer me. Opportunities I jumped at and that have brought me here today. My mother's cousin, David, opened his home to me and sponsored me into the U.S. I remember our first stop, right from the airport was the Social Security Office, so I could get a number and start working. Welcome to America! In the ensuing nearly forty years I've worked in tomato fields, in the retail industry, marketing, put on rodeo shows, and obtained two additional academic degrees.

For the last thirty years I've had the privilege to work for the Federal government. First as an epidemic intelligence service officer and staff epidemiologist at CDC and then at USDA in multiple locations and areas of responsibility, most recently as chief scientist. In those 30 years, I've worked alongside dedicated administrators, staff, plant personnel, veterinarians, and others with a shared goal of safeguarding America's food supply. I've also traveled the world on behalf of FSIS, working with local people, sharing meals, and exchanging thoughts. Because of these experiences, I understand how important a role USDA plays in the world providing safe and nutritious food to both our citizens and global communities.

I would like to highlight a few priority areas I intend to focus on if I am fortunate to be confirmed. First and foremost, safe and nutritious food is a right for every American; emphasis on the word "every." We

have one of the world's safest and strongest food safety systems. I intend to maintain and enhance that status.

Second, our employees are an essential part of our mission. We must ensure that their work environment is safe and affords those who seek them, opportunities to grow.

Third, we need to engage transparently with both producers and consumers, as a team. For every challenge, there is a solution that provides safe food, a healthy workplace, and continued business viability. One need not and should not compromise one for the other.

Fourth and last, we have to work more collaboratively across USDA agencies and with other public health partners. There is a plethora of opportunities for synergy and collaboration within USDA. Together we achieve more substantial and encompassing goals than by working independently.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will work on these four areas -- safe food, safe workplace, open communication, cross-agency collaboration -- and employ these approaches when addressing challenges that can achieve long-term positive impact on the agency and food system, as well as in moments of difficulty. This is how we will protect our consumers, domestic and foreign, grow our economy, and have a healthy and productive workforce.

I am excited and eager for this opportunity, if confirmed, to lead USDA's food safety work for the Biden-Harris Administration and further the administration's efforts to transform America's food system and support more resilient local and regional food production, while ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities. The outpouring of interest USDA has seen from farmers and rural communities and businesses, particularly from our small to mid-sized meat and poultry processing facilities, as they seek ways to build new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers and transforming our food system has been inspirational.

I'd like to again thank President Biden and Secretary Vilsack for their support and thank you Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today.

The United States has afforded me opportunities that I have valued throughout my career. The possibility of serving as the next Under Secretary for Food Safety, is an opportunity I see as way to give back to a nation that has given me so much. I look forward to your questions.

09/22/2022

**Oral Statement by the Honorable Vincent Logan
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture**

September 22, 2022

Thank you, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Vincent Logan. I have the privilege of being nominated by President Biden to serve on the board of the Farm Credit Administration. It is an honor to appear before you today seeking your confirmation of my nomination.

My parents loved this country. Both raised in rural America on family farms, both members of the Osage Nation, both served in the military during World War II and are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. My father, Oscar Logan Jr., enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps and fought with the Fifth Division in Iwo Jima, where he was critically wounded for which he received the Purple Heart. My mother, Della Morrell Logan, served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a nurse stationed here in Washington. After the war, they both returned to Oklahoma where they met, were married, and started a family.

I vividly remember my first visit to Washington as a boy. On that trip I saw how my parents revered the great monuments and institutions of our country, those that we all cherish. I recall when we visited the Capitol, we dressed in our Sunday best and spoke in hushed tones. To this day I recall how my mother's eyes welled up when she heard the national anthem and saw the American flag.

My parents believed in service to our communities and our country. They exhibited patriotism and promoted the ideals of good citizenry. They instilled these values in me, and it is these values that led me to serve our country as Special Trustee for American Indians during the Obama Administration and lead me here today. Joining me here today is my partner, Dr. Steven Lieberman, who served as Acting Under Secretary for the Veterans Health Administration when COVID ravaged this country. Steven worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, literally working seven days a week for well over two years. I personally witnessed his courageous efforts in service to veterans and VHA staff, leading the VHA through its darkest days. His dedication embodies the very essence of public service, always putting the needs of others before himself. He is my hero. I appreciate Steven's guidance and support, and for being here with me today.

09/22/2022

My career in public service began in the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. I later worked in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, and as previously mentioned, as Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior. I spent most of my career in the private sector in New York, first as a corporate finance lawyer and then as an investment advisor for institutional clients. Since 2019, I have been the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer with the Native American Agriculture Fund, the largest philanthropic organization focused solely on Native American farming and ranching communities.

The Farm Credit System, established by an act of Congress over 100 years ago, has a long history and an inspiring mission to provide credit to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agricultural cooperatives. Credit is critical to the success of farmers and ranchers. Production agriculture is capital intensive and heavily reliant on access to competitive credit. The cost of land, labor, equipment, and fertilizer is high, requiring both long-term and short-term financing. In addition to being costly to operate, agricultural enterprises also entail considerable risk, thanks to variables like weather and market forces. I am very thankful to the men and women who, despite the risks, produce the food and fiber we depend on to survive.

Although the Farm Credit System is the largest single provider of agricultural credit, it is by no means the only one. Many commercial lenders also serve the credit needs of our farmers. Farmers and ranchers benefit from these multiple sources of financing competing for business because it often results in lower interest rates and better terms.

As a government-sponsored enterprise dedicated to serving agriculture, the Farm Credit System's mission is to serve agriculture in good times and in bad. When the farm economy takes a downturn, farmers and ranchers need Farm Credit to be there for them.

It would be an honor to serve on the board of the agency that is responsible for keeping the System safe and sound and ensuring it fulfills its important mission. And I believe my education, career experience, and expertise — both as an attorney and in finance — qualify me for the position.

Although I left rural Oklahoma as a young man years ago, my love for rural America has not waned, and my desire to serve and give back is as strong as ever. If this committee in its wisdom confirms my nomination, I will put my expertise and passion to work to ensure the success of the Farm Credit System and its mission to serve our nation's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you. I look forward to answering your questions.

**Opening Statement of Alexis M. Taylor, Nominee for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
September 22, 2022**

Remarks as Prepared

Thank you, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman and members of this Committee. A special thanks to Senator Grassley for that warm introduction.

It is an honor to be nominated by President Biden for the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. I am particularly humbled to be considered for this critical role by this committee, which I hold in such high regard.

I also would like to thank Secretary Vilsack for his dedicated leadership of USDA, as well as his support and mentorship over the years.

I would not be here today without the support of my family, including my mother, Karol. There have been no bigger champions throughout my life and my career, and I am grateful for your unconditional support. I also want to thank my sister Amanda, who is here with me today, and brother-in-law Ryan who as farmers help to keep me connected to the opportunities and challenges faced by producers and our agricultural communities every day. I am also thankful for the first and most influential farmer in my life, my father, Joe. Although he has passed, there is not a day that goes by where I do not call upon lessons he taught me on the farm. I know he would be very proud today.

As Senator Grassley mentioned, my career in agriculture began at a very young age, growing up on a farm which has been in my family for over 160 years.

I learned many things growing up on my family's farm in Iowa - from the hard work and long hours our farmers and ranchers put into raising a crop or keeping livestock healthy; to the challenges that unpredictable weather and volatile markets can bring. One of the most important

things that was instilled in me as a child was a desire to serve a greater good and give back to my community.

That desire to serve led me to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves when I was still a junior in High School, drove me through 8 years of military service, including a deployment to Iraq, and drew me to my career in public service, working to advance the interests of U.S. agriculture.

While working on Capitol Hill for an Iowa Congressman and then a Senator who served on this Committee, at USDA previously or today with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), some of my most meaningful work has been finding solutions to the complex challenges farmers and ranchers face. Throughout my career, farmers and ranchers have shared those challenges with me from the cab of their pickup on a ranch tour in Montana, while walking a wheat field in northeastern Oregon, or riding in a combine during harvest in Iowa.

One of my favorite quotes is from President Dwight Eisenhower, who said, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

It is a lesson I have taken to heart, and throughout my career I have made sure to spend time with farmers and ranchers and hear firsthand about the support they need to be successful – including in my current role where I made it a priority to visit every county in Oregon during my first year as director.

Should I have the honor to be confirmed, I will carry their stories with me as I work to advance U.S. agriculture across the globe as I lead the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Mission Area and the dedicated staff at the Foreign Agricultural Service.

FAS' mission to link U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security is as relevant today as when it was created in 1930.

As the diplomatic and humanitarian crisis has unfolded in Ukraine, the capacity building and food security programs at USDA will be even more critical to help the world navigate a growing global food security crisis.

The United States plays a critical role in combatting food insecurity and working to protect the most vulnerable. I am proud of this part of the TFAA and FAS mission and will be committed to this work should I have the privilege to serve.

At the same time, our farmers, ranchers, and forestry professionals here at home are experiencing unprecedented challenges. From supply chain disruptions impacting not only our food and agricultural exports, but also critical imports, to the impacts of inflation, these challenges are being directly felt by every agricultural community across the country. Ensuring strong export markets is critical to building resiliency for our U.S. agriculture community.

My time at ODA, has helped me draw even stronger connections to our farmers and ranchers and the importance that export markets have on their profitability and their success.

Expanding and maintaining diversified market opportunities, rebuilding strong and reliable trading relationships, and holding our trading partners accountable are essential for our agricultural community. And equally as important is removing trade barriers and working to ensure our trading partners have transparent, science-based regulatory requirements which are predictable for our exporters.

As I have seen from my current position at ODA, the Biden-Harris administration, through the efforts of both Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Tai, have made it clear that the country's trade agenda is focused on growing the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, and creating trade policy where agriculture is at the table. Should I be confirmed, I am eager to join in that effort to work in coordination with the U.S. Trade Representative, and other federal agencies and Congress, to work to expand and maintain that diversified market access for U.S. farmers, producers, and exporters, and help them connect with customers around the world.

Agriculture is not just what I do, but it is very much who I am. Working to support farmers and ranchers across the country is something I have dedicated my career to. And should I have the honor to be confirmed as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, I am committed to working to ensure the interests of U.S. agriculture is being represented here at home and around the globe.

Thank you and I look forward to responding to questions that Members of the Committee might have.

**DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE
RECORD**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

The undersigned companies write to express our support for the nomination of Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Alexis Taylor to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. U.S. agricultural producers and agribusinesses, in addition to consumers worldwide, will be well served through Director Taylor's administration of the department's trade promotion and capacity building programs.

America's farmers, ranchers, processors, exporters, and food manufacturers are foundational in the strength of our country—not just in rural areas, but in feeding, fueling, and clothing people in America's cities and around the world. Trade is vital to the economic viability of our industry. Food and agriculture are among the most export competitive sectors in U.S. and support tens of millions of jobs. It is crucial that U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses have champions to advocate on their behalf on the world stage.

Director Taylor has deep roots in U.S. agriculture and was raised on her family farm in Northeast Iowa. Like many rural Americans, Director Taylor decided to serve her nation in the Armed Forces, enlisting in the U.S. Army Reserves while still in high school. Director Taylor served one tour in Iraq with the 389th Combat Engineer Battalion and served in the Reserves from 1998 to 2006. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University, she worked for various members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

In 2014, due to her tireless work in Congress, Director Taylor was appointed by the Obama Administration as the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, where she helped ensure agricultural stakeholder's voices were at the table as the U.S. worked to open markets around the globe. Then, in 2016, she was appointed to her current role by Oregon Gov. Katie Brown. From this post, Director Taylor oversees the state's efforts on food safety and consumer protection, natural resource protection and the promotion of Oregon products in the United States and around the world.

Director Taylor is a widely recognized leader on agriculture policy and has the domestic and international experience to shepherd U.S. agriculture through growing global changes of protecting food security, tackling inflation, and expanding markets for U.S. agricultural products. She is a dedicated, hardworking, results driven public servant—qualities that are recognized by the large range of stakeholders supporting her nomination.

We strongly urge the Committee to quickly advance her nomination so she can begin the important work at USDA to address the issues facing our farmers and ranchers and the growing food security challenges around the world.

Sincerely,

CHS, Inc.
 Ackerman Marketing, Inc.
 ADM
 AFB International
 Ag Processing Inc.
 Agri Beef Co.
 Agri-Mark, Inc.
 AgTrade Strategies LLC
 Alltech
 Amalgamated Sugar Company
 Amcot
 American Crystal Sugar Company
 Amvac Chemical
 Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI)
 BASF Corporation
 Bayer
 Beachner Grain, Inc.
 BelGioioso Cheese, Inc.
 Berg Schmidt America LLC
 Blue Diamond Growers
 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
 Bongards Creameries
 Bunge
 California Canning Peach Association
 California Dairies, Inc.
 Cargill
 Cayuga Marketing
 Ceres Solutions Cooperative, Inc.
 Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc.
 CoBank

Cooperative Milk Producers Association
 Corteva Agriscience
 Crockery Creek Turkey Farms
 Dairy Farmers of America
 Darigold
 Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
 Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
 Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association
 Farm Credit Services of America
 Farmers Business Network
 FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
 Freeland Bean & Grain, Inc.
 Freshpet, Inc.
 Frontier Farm Credit
 Gowan USA
 Grassland Dairy Products INC.
 Green Plains Inc.
 GROWMARK
 Harvey Milling
 High-Lean Pork, Inc
 Hilmar
 Hormel Foods
 Indigo Ag
 International Ingredient Corporation
 James Farrell & Co.
 KCoe Isom, LLP
 King Milling Company
 Land O'Lakes, Inc.
 Landus
 Leprino Foods Company

LifeLine Foods
Lineage Logistics
Louis Dreyfus Company
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers
Cooperative Association
MCT Dairies
Mead Johnson Nutrition/Reckitt
Michigan Agricultural Commodities
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Potash and Salt Company
Michigan Processing Apple Growers
Michigan Processing Asparagus Growers
Milk Specialties Global
MKC
North River Enterprises, LLC
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Novozymes
Nutrien
Organic Valley
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Prairie Farms Dairy
Ravenna Feed & Grain Inc.
Sargent docks and terminal Inc.

Sartori Cheese
Schreiber Foods Inc.
Scotts Miracle-Gro
Sietsema Farms
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative
Star Milling Co.
Sunmaid Growers of California
Sunsweet Growers Inc.
Superior Farms
Syngenta
T.C. Jacoby & Company, Inc.
The Kroger Co.
Tillamook County Creamery Association
Trugman Nash
U.S. Meat Export Federation
United Dairy Farmers of Florida
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Grain Corporation
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Valent U.S.A. LLC
William Westman & Associates LLC
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
World Perspectives, Inc.
Zoetis



Office of the President

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman
 The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member
 U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
 328A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), we are pleased to write in support of the confirmation of Alexis Taylor, nominated to be Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

AF&PA serves to advance U.S. paper and wood products manufacturers through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. The forest products industry is circular by nature. AF&PA member companies make essential products from renewable and recycle resources, generate renewable bioenergy and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative — [Better Practices, Better Planet 2030: Sustainable Products for a Sustainable Future](#). The forest products industry accounts for approximately four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures nearly \$300 billion in products annually and employs approximately 950,000 people. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$60 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states.

We believe Director Taylor is well-qualified to serve as Under Secretary at USDA. Throughout her time as Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at USDA, Director Taylor has proven to possess an understanding of the important role agriculture and forestry plays in supporting jobs and rural economies through trade. We look forward to working with her on free and fair trade policies that advance the competitiveness of the U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry and its workers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Brock".

Heidi Brock
 President and Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric D. Steiner".

Eric Steiner
 Vice President, Government Affairs

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

We write to express our support for the nomination of Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Alexis Taylor to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. U.S. agricultural producers and global food security will be well served through Director Taylor's administration of the department's trade promotion and capacity building programs—she is uniquely qualified for this role.

Director Taylor's understanding of agriculture and trade issues can be traced back to her childhood. She was raised on the Northeast Iowa farm that has been in her family for more than 160 years and began her long career in public service in high school when she enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. Director Taylor served one tour in Iraq with the 389th Combat Engineer Battalion and served in the Reserves from 1998 to 2006. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University, she worked for various members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

In 2014, due to her tireless work in Congress, Director Taylor was appointed by the Obama Administration as the USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, where she helped ensure agricultural stakeholder's voices were at the table as the U.S. worked to open markets around the globe. Then, in 2016, she was appointed to her current role by Oregon Gov. Katie Brown. From this post, Director Taylor oversees the state's efforts on food safety and consumer protection, natural resource protection and the promotion of Oregon products in the United States and around the world.

Director Taylor is a widely recognized leader on agriculture policy and has the domestic and international experience to shepherd U.S. agriculture through growing global changes of protecting food security, tackling inflation, and expanding markets for U.S. agricultural products. She is a dedicated, hardworking, results driven public servant—qualities that are recognized by the large range of stakeholders supporting her nomination.

We strongly urge the Committee to quickly advance Director Taylor's nomination so she can begin the important work at USDA to address the issues facing our farmers and ranchers and the growing food security challenges around the world.

Sincerely,

National Association of Wheat Growers
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
American Bakers Association
American Beekeeping Federation
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Peanut Council
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Animal Health Institute
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Fig Advisory Board
California Prune Board
California Strawberry Commission
California Walnut Commission
CropLife America
Corn Refiners Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Farm Credit Council
Farmers for Free Trade
Florida Feed Association, Inc.
Food Northwest
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Growth Energy
International Dairy Food Association
International Fresh Food Association
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa Biotechnology Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
Meat Import Council of America
Midwest Dairy Coalition

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pecan Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Blueberry Council
North America Meat Institute
North American Millers Association
North America Renderers Association
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio Agribusiness Association
Oregon Bioscience Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Feed and Grain Association
Oregon Organic Coalition
Oregon Seed Association
Oregon Seed Council
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Oregon Wine Council
Oregon Winegrowers Association
Pet Food Institute
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Sweeteners Users Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Grain and Feed Association
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council

U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
U.S. Peanut Federation
U.S. Rice Producers Association
U.S. Wheat Associates
USA Rice
Western Growers Association
Western Peanut Growers Association
Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) strongly endorses the nomination of Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban to the position of Undersecretary for Food Safety at the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Esteban is preeminently qualified and suited to take the top food safety position at USDA, ensuring the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe for consumers.

Dr Esteban received APHL's 2019 On the Front Line Award for his contributions over two decades as the FSIS liaison to our Food Safety committee. His election to the vice presidency of the International Association for Food Protection is a testament to his training, his ability to collaborate with industry and government officials, and his institutional knowledge of the US food safety system. Globally, he has been an effective member of U.S. delegations to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. As the FSIS science advisor for laboratory services, Dr Esteban had the vision for and implemented harmonized efforts across FSIS laboratories, maintained operations to stringent ISO 17025 standards, and coordinated emergency response within USDA and across federal agencies. We anticipate the partnership of Dr. Esteban and Ms. Sandra Eskin, Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety, will advance science, technological modernization and the stakeholder relations at the agency, to the benefit of the public health.

APHL is a member-service association that works to strengthen laboratory systems serving the public's health in the United States and globally, representing state, local, and territorial governmental public health laboratories in the United States. We encourage the expeditious confirmation of Dr. Esteban. Please contact us (scott.becker@aphl.org) if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott J. Becker".

Scott Becker, MS
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne Ware".

Daphne Ware, PhD
President



December 1, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) strongly endorses the nomination of Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban to the position of Undersecretary for Food Safety at the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Esteban is preeminently qualified, and suited, to take the top food safety position at USDA, ensuring the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe for consumers.

Dr Esteban received APHL's 2019 On the Front Line Award for his contributions over two decades as the FSIS liaison to our Food Safety committee. His election to the vice presidency of the International Association for Food Protection is a testament to his training, his ability to collaborate with industry and government officials, and his institutional knowledge of the US food safety system. Globally, he has been an effective member of U.S. delegations to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. As the FSIS science advisor for laboratory services, Dr Esteban had the vision for and implemented harmonized efforts across FSIS laboratories, maintained operations to stringent ISO 17025 standards, and coordinated emergency response within USDA and across federal agencies. We anticipate the partnership of Dr. Esteban and Ms. Sandra Eskin, Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety, will advance science, technological modernization and stakeholder relations at the agency, to the benefit of the public health.

APHL is a member-service association that works to strengthen laboratory systems serving the public's health in the United States and globally, representing state, local, and territorial governmental public health laboratories in the United States. We encourage the expeditious confirmation of Dr. Esteban. Please contact us (scott.becker@aphl.org) if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott J. Becker".

Scott Becker
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise M. Toney".

Denise Toney
President



November 23, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
 Chair
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of cattle producers across the United States, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) writes to express our support for the nomination of Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban to be Under Secretary for Food Safety.

Dr. Esteban's extensive background in food safety and his previous work with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) provide him with the unique skill set that will foster a collaborative approach for industry and government to work together to protect and ensure food safety for consumers. Additionally, Dr. Esteban has displayed global leadership as Chair for the Codex Alimentarius Commission Committee on Food Hygiene, where he has supported science-based decisions and risk assessments to ensure global food safety.

America's beef producers rely on sound and effective food safety programs to maintain and enhance consumer confidence in beef. In addition to the proactive production practices that cattle producers employ to promote and enhance beef safety, we recognize the essential role USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) plays to ensure consumers receive a safe product. We are confident that Dr. Esteban's experience and leadership will allow for USDA-FSIS to continue to deliver on its vital mission area which ensures Americans continue to enjoy the safest and most secure food supply in the world.

We believe Dr. Esteban is a phenomenal choice to lead USDA's food safety efforts and functions. His background on food safety issues and service to the United States in this critical area is unparalleled. We look forward to Dr. Esteban's collaborative approach that will engage the regulated community, beef producers and processors of all sizes, and consumer groups to bring forth viable solutions to maintain and improve beef safety.

NCBA appreciates the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our nation's cattle producers and we look forward to working with you to move Dr. Esteban's nomination forward in the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

Ethan Lane, Vice President of Government Affairs



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION
 CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

May 26, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
 Chairwoman
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
 United States Senate
 328A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of America's cattle producers, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) writes to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Alexis Taylor to serve as the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NCBA worked closely with Ms. Taylor in her previous roles on Capitol Hill and in the Obama Administration, and she is a proven advocate for U.S. farmers and ranchers. We believe Ms. Taylor will play an integral role in helping the U.S. agricultural industry advance new marketing opportunities and navigate troublesome trade barriers that are counter to the science-based standards that make U.S. agriculture one of the most sustainable production systems in the world.

Over the past decade, America's cattle producers have benefitted greatly from policies that have replaced arbitrary and unjustified trade barriers with market-driven, science-based, and enforceable agreements. The removal of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers allowed U.S. beef exports to double from \$4 billion in 2010 to a record-setting \$10.6 billion in 2021. There are still many trade barriers to overcome, and the Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs plays a vital role in leading USDA's efforts to implement science-based trade policies, hold our trade partners accountable, and coordinate with other agencies to secure new market access.

NCBA encourages the members of the United States Senate to expeditiously confirm the nomination Alexis Taylor for USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and we look forward to working with you to continue building market access opportunities for America's cattle producers.

Sincerely,

Ethan Lane
 Vice President, Government Affairs
 National Cattlemen's Beef Association





September 22, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of FMI – The Food Industry Association, I write to you in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban to serve as USDA’s Under Secretary for Food Safety and ask you to swiftly approve his nomination. As the Food Industry Association, FMI works with, and on behalf of, the entire industry to advance a safer, healthier, and more efficient consumer food supply chain. FMI brings together a wide range of members across the value chain—from retailers that sell to consumers, to producers that supply food and other products, as well as a wide variety of companies providing critical services—to amplify the collective work of the industry. www.FMI.org

FMI’s single highest priority is ensuring the safety of the nation’s food supply, and to that end, we work closely with the senior leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and have consistently advocated for the appointment of highly qualified candidates to serve in these critical positions. A veterinarian and an epidemiologist with decades of food safety and regulatory experience, Dr. Esteban is extremely well-respected and uniquely qualified to lead the food safety mission at the Department by ensuring sound science and public health drive decision making.

Again, FMI respectfully urges the committee to advance Dr. Esteban’s nomination as quickly as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input and your consideration. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at jhatcher@fmi.org or (202) 452-8444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Hatcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer and
Senior Vice President,
Government & Public Affairs



July 20, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

On behalf of the Farm Credit Council, I write to express Farm Credit's view on the nomination of Vincent Logan to serve as a board member of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). We believe that Mr. Logan's background in both agriculture and financial services makes him very well-qualified for this role.

Mr. Logan currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer of the Native American Agriculture Fund, which provides grants to eligible entities for business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to support Native farmers and ranchers. Prior to this, he served as the Special Trustee for American Indians at the U.S. Department of Interior. He also worked in New York in both asset-based financing and asset management. In his spare time, he volunteers at tribal youth events teaching financial skills.

FCA is the arms-length regulator for the Farm Credit System and Farmer Mac. Governed by a three-member board, FCA's mission is to ensure Farm Credit System institutions and Farmer Mac are safe, sound, and dependable sources of credit and related services for all creditworthy and eligible persons in agriculture and rural America. Since May 2019, however, FCA's board has been operating with only two Senate-confirmed members. As with all boards and commissions, FCA's board functions best with a full slate of Senate-confirmed members, and we look forward to working with a complete board if Mr. Logan is confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Van Hoose".

Todd Van Hoose
President and Chief Executive Officer



National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

4350 North Fairfax Drive
Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22203
Tel: 202-296-9680 | Fax: 703-880-0509
www.nasda.org

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking
Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow and Boozman:

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is extremely encouraged that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has scheduled a confirmation hearing of Ms. Alexis Taylor to serve as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs and Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban to serve as Under Secretary for Food Safety.

NASDA supports President Biden's nomination of both of these highly experienced and well-qualified individuals and asks you to quickly approve their nominations.

NASDA works closely with the senior leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in support of safe food and expanded trade opportunities for the products of American agriculture and has consistently advocated for the appointment of highly qualified candidates to serve in these critical positions.

In her current role as Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and a distinguished member of NASDA, Director Taylor has devoted her time and attention to expanding market opportunities not only for Oregonians but for farmers and ranchers across the country. She has been particularly instrumental in developing opportunities for female food and beverage entrepreneurs to reach new markets for their products.

In her previous role as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Director Taylor worked on agricultural trade policy by promoting ways to open new markets and improving the competitive position of U.S. farm goods in the global marketplace.

Director Taylor has the experience to promote US agriculture across the globe and the passion, demeanor, and diplomacy to succeed.

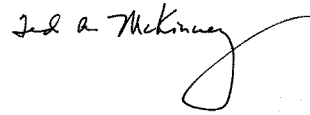
In addition to Director Taylor, I have had the opportunity to work personally with Dr. Esteban, currently Chief Science Officer of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service. I have always found him to be excellent with all things science, but also very adept at communicating that

science effectively as it intersects with all other aspects of the Food Safety and Inspection Service. He has worked on domestic and international issues, served in times of strife and difficulty (e.g. disease breakouts), and has always maintained an excellent and professional outlook toward the work at hand.

Our nation is facing considerable challenges within the supply chain, inflation, failing infrastructure, climate, diversity and inclusion, trade, workforce, and many others. The USDA needs knowledgeable and experienced leaders at the helm to navigate through these challenges and implement bipartisan solutions.

NASDA supports the nomination of Director Alexis Taylor and Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban and asks the committee to quickly advance their nominations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted McKinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ted McKinney
Chief Executive Officer

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
Questions for Executive Nominees
117th Congress**

1. Basic Biographical Information

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
<u>Agriculture Undersecretary Food Safety</u>	

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Jose	Emilio	Esteban	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 1400 Independence Ave SW South Building Room 3129		
<u>City:</u> Alexandria	<u>State:</u> VA	<u>Zip:</u> 22314	<u>City:</u> Washington	<u>State:</u> DC	<u>Zip:</u> 20250

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
NONE					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
Year of Birth (Do not include month and day.)	Place of Birth
1958	Mexico City, Mexico

<i>Marital Status</i>					
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:					
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name (current spouse only)</i>			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
Amanda	Christine	Toffoli-Esteban	

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used (current spouse only)</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Check if Maiden Name</u>	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
NONE					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Joseph	Eugene	Esteban	
Emily	Elena	Esteban	

2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
UNAM	College -- Veterinary Medicine	07/1977 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	10/1982 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	DVM	1982
IPADE	Technical – Business School	07/1983 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07/1985 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	MBA	1985
UC Davis	College	07/1987 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10/1989 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	MPVM	1989
UC Davis	College	07/1989 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10/1994 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	PhD	1994

3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

Type of Employment (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPHS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other	Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station	Most Recent Position Title/Rank	Location (City and State only)	Date Employment Began (month/year) (check box if estimate)	Date Employment Ended (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Civil Service	USDA-FSIS	Chief Scientist	DC	08/2018 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Civil Service	USDA-FSIS	Executive Associate for Laboratory Services	DC/CA/GA	05/2011	08/2018
Civil Service	USDA-FSIS	Scientific Advisor for Laboratory Services and Research Coordination	Athens, GA	02/2008	05/2011
Civil Service	USDA-FSIS	Western Laboratory Director	Alameda, CA	06/2002	02/2008
Civil Service	HHS-CDC	Assistant Director for Public Health, Food Safety Office	Atlanta, GA	05/1998	06/2002
Civil Service	HHS-CDC	Epidemiologist	Atlanta, GA	07/1996 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 05/1998 <input type="checkbox"/>
Civil Service	HHS-CDC	Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer	Atlanta, GA	07/1994	07/1996
State Gov -- Educator	UC Davis	Accredited Veterinarian/ Epidemiologist / Lecturer	Davis, CA Tulare, CA	08/1989 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 07/1994 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non- government – Self-employed	Hispania Marketing	Owner	Roseville, CA	01/1988 (est) Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 12/1990 (est)

Non-government	KRCX Radio	Sales Consultant	Roseville, CA	03/1987(est)	07/1989 (est)
Non-government	The Juke Box	Bar tender	Roseville, CA	02/1987 (est)	03/1987 (est)
Non-government	Hunt-Wesson, Inc	Labor	Oakdale, CA	11/1986 (est)	02/1987 (est)
Non-government	Weinstocks Store	Sales Clerk	Fresno, CA	03/1986 (est)	11/1986 (est)
Non-government - Contractor	Smith Security Services	Contractor	Sacramento, CA	03/1986 (est)	03/1987 (est)
Non-government	McCurry Camera Stores	Sales	Sacramento, CA	10/1985 (est)	03/1986 (est)
Non-government	Self-employed	Veterinarian	Mexico	07/1982 (est)	10/1985 (est)

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
United Nations/FAO/Codex Alimentarius	Chair – Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	7/2006 Est <input type="checkbox"/> X	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> X
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/>

4. Honors and Awards

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Distinguished Presidential Rank Award – 2021

USDA Secretary’s Honor Award – Exceptional Service, 2014

Group Honor Award for Excellence – Advancing the goals of the President’s Food Safety Workgroup, 2010

USDA Secretary’s Honor Award – Pathogen Workgroups, 2010

Group Honor Award for Excellence – E. Coli O157:H7 Workgroup, 2008

Group Honor Award for Excellence – Melamine Response Team, 2007

USDA Secretary’s Group Honor Award for Excellence, 2006

Excellence in Diversity Award, 2005

FSIS Administrator’s Excellence Award, 2005

FSIS Administrator’s Award of Excellence, 2003

1999 Food and Drug Administration– Recognition Award for Excellence in the Development and Implementation of the 1999 Regional Outreach Meeting on Food Safety

1998 HHS-CDC Special Act or Service Award

1998 NCEH Director’s Award for outstanding contribution to the development of the National Center for Environmental Health Workforce Diversity and Community Involvement Plan.

1998 Equal Opportunity Achievement (Group) for commitment and dedication to expanding the representation of Hispanic-Americans at CDC and ATSDR through targeted recruitment and retention efforts.

1997 Group Honor Award- Program Operations for team leadership of a US/Russian collaborative program to define the extent of childhood lead poisoning in Russia and formulate policy aimed at prevention.

1996 ATSDR Certification of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding, professional public health services provided to the residents of Lorain, Ohio.

5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, Parent-Teacher Associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts

clubs (such as Groupon or Sam’s Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
International Association for Food Protection	2019	Executive Board Member
International Association for Food Protection	1998-present	Member

6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

Yes No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service</u> (if applicable)

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
NONE			

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
NONE		

7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Please provide the Committee with all listed publications via email or other digital format and list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

**Denotes no publication currently available*

Title	Publisher	Date of Publication
Use of Whole-Genome Sequencing at the Food Safety and Inspection Service to Detect and Investigate Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	Food Protection Trends	Jul/Aug 2020
Shiga Toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) and food: attribution, characterization, and monitoring (Report)	Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations – World Health Organization	2018
Fate of Shiga Toxin-Producing O157:H7 and Non-O157:H7 Escherichia coli Cells within Refrigerated, Frozen, or Frozen Then Thawed Ground Beef Patties Cooked on a Commercial Open-Flame Gas or a Clamshell Electric Grill	Journal of Food Protection	30-Sep-12
Latex Agglutination Assays for Detection of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli Serogroups O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145	Journal of Food Protection	19-Sep-11
Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 107 / Friday, June 4, 2010 / Notices	Federal Register	4-Jun-10
Epidemiologic Principles and Food Safety*	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Inspection Service	15-Jul-08
Advances in Food Safety to Prevent Foodborne Diseases in the United States	Silent Victories: The History and Practice of Public Health in Twentieth Century America	2007
Binational study of pediatric blood lead levels along the United States/Mexico border	International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health, Volume 209, Issue 3	3-Feb-06
Capacity of state and territorial health agencies to prevent foodborne illness	Center for Disease and Control, Emerging Infectious Diseases	Jan-05
Risk Assessments of Salmonella in Eggs and Broiler Chickens	World Health Organization Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	2002

Public Health Decisions: The Laboratory's Role in the Lorain County, Ohio, Investigation	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA – Environmental Health Perspectives	Dec-02
Assessment of Human Exposure and Human Health Effects after Indoor Application of Methyl Parathion in Lorain County, Ohio, 1995-1996	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA – Environmental Health Perspectives	Dec-02
Introduction--the methyl parathion story: a chronicle of misuse and preventable human exposure	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA – Environmental Health Perspectives	Dec-02
Antimicrobial residues in animal waste and water resources proximal to large-scale swine and poultry feeding operations	Science of The Total Environment Volume 299, Issues 1-3, Pages 89-95	1-Nov-02
Lead poisoning among young children in Russia: concurrent evaluation of childhood lead exposure in Ekaterinburg, Krasnouralsk, and Volgograd	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Health Perspectives, Children's Health Articles	Jun-02
Assessing Acute Diarrhea from sulfate in drinking water	American Water Works Association	1-Sep-01
Estimated prevalence of noise-induced hearing threshold shifts among children 6 to 19 years of age: The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-1994, United States	Pediatrics, Volume 108, Issue 1	1-Jul-01
Analysis of the 1998 outbreak of leptospirosis in Missouri in humans exposed to infected swine	American Veterinary Medical Association, Volume 216, Issue 5	1-Mar-00
Safer and Healthier Foods—1900-1999	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	11/24/1999
Hair and Blood as Substrates for Screening Children for Lead Poisoning	Archives of Environmental Health: An International Journal	30-Mar-98
Reply: Hearing loss among children.	American Medical Association	19-Aug-98
Prevalence of Hearing Loss Among Children 6 to 19 Years of Age.	American Medical Association	8-Apr-98

Childhood Lead Poisoning in Russia: A Site-specific Pediatric Blood Lead Evaluation.	Environmental Health Perspectives, Children's Health Articles	1997
Heat Related Mortality -- Dallas, Wichita, and Cooke Counties in Texas, and the United States	Center for Disease and Control Prevention	1997
The Boiler Room Blues: Two Separate Incidents of Methemoglobinemia Due to Contamination of Potable Water from Boiler Additives, New Jersey.	Center for Disease and Control Prevention	7-Mar-97
Evaluation Infant Diarrhea Associated with Elevated Levels of Sulfate in Drinking Water: A Case-control Investigation in South Dakota	International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health	Year 1997
A mathematical model for Assessing Human Exposure to Methyl Parathion in Private Residences. International Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology.	Environmental Health Perspectives	27-Sep-96
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hypothermia-Related Deaths - New Mexico, October 1993-March 1994	Center for Disease and Control Prevention, Morbid and Mortality Weekly Report	22-Dec-95
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Heat-Related Mortality - Chicago	Center for Disease and Control Prevention, Morbid and Mortality Weekly Report	Jul-95
Emilio Esteban and Bruce Anderson. Cryptosporidium muris: Prevalence, Persistency, and Detrimental Effect on Milk Production in a Drylot Dairy. Journal of Dairy Science.	Journal of Dairy Science	30-Jan-95
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hypothermia-Related Deaths - North Carolina, November 1993-March 1994. MMWR 1994	Center for Disease and Control Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report	25-Nov-94
Emilio Esteban, Philip Kass, Leon Weaver, et al. Reproductive Performance in High Producing Dairy Cows Treated with Recombinant Bovine Somatotropin. Journal of Dairy Science, 1994	Journal of Dairy Science	Nov-94

Emilio Esteban, Philip Kass, Leon Weaver, et al. Interval from Calving to Conception in High Producing Dairy Cows Treated with Recombinant Bovine Somatotropin. Journal of Dairy Science	Journal of Dairy Science	11-Apr-94
Emilio Esteban, Philip Kass, Leon Weaver, et al. Pregnancy Incidence in High Producing Dairy Cows Treated with Recombinant Bovine Somatotropin. Journal of Dairy Science, 1993	Journal of Dairy Science	8-Apr-93
Emilio Esteban, Kurt Snipes, David Hird, et al. Use of Ribotyping for the Characterization of Salmonella Serotypes. Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 1993	Journal of Clinical Microbiology	Feb-93
Gerry Koenig, Ben Norman, and Emilio Esteban. California Beef Cattle Health Questionnaire Results. California Cattleman*	California Cattlemen's Association	1993
Marion Titterton, Leon Weaver, and Emilio Esteban. Relationship of Body Condition Score at Calving, Serum Calcium, and Uterine Health. Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Report	Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Report	1993
Emilio Esteban. Preventive Udder Health Management. California Agribusiness Dairyman*	California Agribusiness Dairyman	1992
Walter Guterbock, Emilio Esteban, and Roger Saltman. Effect of Chlortetracycline-Sulfamethazine Crumbles on Weight Gain of Newly Weaned Holstein Calves. Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Report, 1991.*	Tulare Dairy Herd Improvement Report	1991
Emilio Esteban. Reciclaje de Excretas de Cerdo: Estudio Recapitulativo. Porcira*		1984

(B) List any formal speeches you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative

or administrative body. Please provide the Committee with copies of all listed speeches via email or other digital format and list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

Topic/Title	Place/Audience	Date(s)
NACMCF	Virtual. Stakeholders from public and industry (National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food)	November 11, 2021
Salmonella Roundtable	Virtual. Stakeholders from public and industry	October 26, 2021
USAHA Salmonella Outbreaks and Trends	Virtual. Veterinarians and industry of the US Animal Health Association	October 10, 2021
Stakeholder Feedback on KPI	Virtual. Stakeholders from public and industry	October 1, 2021
Trends in Sampling Results and Future Possibilities	Virtual. Stakeholders from public and industry	October 2021
Concept Proposal for Additional Sampling Location	Virtual. FSIS leadership	October 2021
Dual Jurisdiction Establishments (DJE) Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Project	Virtual. FSIS and other Federal food safety partners	September 21, 2021
Trends in Sampling Results and Future Possibilities	Virtual.	September 2021
Pathogen Reduction Key Performance Indicator	Virtual. Stakeholders from public and industry	August 19, 2021
UJNR Preventive Strategies for the Control of Salmonella	Virtual. Japanese food safety officials.	October 2021
Method Use and Acceptance by Competent Authorities Korea	Virtual. International Association for Food Protection, Korean Affiliate	October 2021
INFORM Preventive Strategies for the Control of Salmonella	Virtual. US Federal and State food safety partners	April 2021
ARS-FSIS Preventive Strategies for the Control of Salmonella	Virtual. US Federal and State food safety partners	May 2021
Salmonella. State of the Science Public Meeting	Washington, DC. USDA public meeting	September 2020
AOAC Surveillance of and Response to Chemical Hazards PFAS Compounds	Virtual. AOAC membership	September 2020
AOAC Analytical Method Selection at FSIS Methods Presentation	Virtual. AOAC membership	September 2020
IAFP RESNARMS Temporal Co-occurrence of Antimicrobial Class Residue in tissue and Antimicrobial Sensitivity Profile	Virtual. International Association for Food Protection annual meeting	September 2020
AOAC Salmonella Re-emergence or not	Virtual. AOAC membership	September 2020
The U.S. National Residue Program. How FSIS keeps veterinary drug and contaminants out of the food supply	Multiple audiences	August 8, 2020

NCC - Lab Sampling Programs Update	Washington, DC. National Chicken Council Members	August 2020
WGS at FSIS Notable Actions by Year	Washington, DC. FSIS leadership	August 2020
PFAS Analytical Method Slides	Washington, DC. Federal partners involved in response to contamination event.	July 2020
Gen-FS	Virtual. FSIS Leadership	June 22, 2020
Surveillance of and Response to Chemical Hazards. CBA Presentation	Virtual. Membership of the Consumer Brands Association (delegated presentation)	June 12, 2020
Mitigation of PFOS in a New Mexico Dairy Herd	Washington, DC. Federal partners involved in response to contamination event.	October 22, 2019
Transitions to WGS-Derived Characterization	Washington, DC. FSIS internal stakeholders	October 3, 2019
Should Pathogen Working Groups Change to Commodity-based Working Groups	Washington, DC. FSIS internal stakeholders	August 2019
The Use of Rapid Microbial Methods by Government FORMAT - FSIS	Louisville, Kentucky. IAAP Annual meeting	July 12, 2019
USDA Engagement on Per- and PolyFlourinated Alkyl Substances Activities - Science Council Briefing	Washington, DC. Federal partners involved in response to contamination event.	October 2019
USDA PFOS DEPLETION MODEL - Clovis New Mexico Bovine presentation v4	Washington, DC. Federal partners involved in response to contamination event.	July 2019
Whole Genome Sequencing for Listeria monocytogenes Isolates for Industry Reps	Washington, DC. Industry stakeholders	July 19, 2018

8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

NONE

June 29, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition &
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington DC 20150

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition &
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington DC 20150

RE: Addendum to the Committee Questionnaire

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

During my interview with your staff counsels, we identified items that required clarification or were inadvertently left off or incorrectly listed on my original Committee Questionnaire submitted. In this letter I am submitting the clarifications as requested by Committee staff.

I would like to clarify my spouse's name. She is referred to by both "Amanda" and "Mandy". Her maiden name was Toffoli and her married name is Toffoli-Esteban.

1. Amanda Christine Toffoli-Esteban, October 1987 – present
2. Mandy Christine Toffoli-Esteban, October 1987 – present
3. Amanda Christine Toffoli, June 1964 – October 1987
4. Mandy Christine Toffoli, June 1964 – October 1987

I provided the universities I attended in chronological order on the Committee's questionnaire and below am spelling out in full the names of the universities.

1. **Name of School:** National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) College of Veterinary Medicine
Date: July 1977 – October 1982
Degree: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Date Awarded: 1982
2. **Name of School:** Instituto Panamericano de Alta Direccion de Empresa (IPADE) Technical Business School
Date: July 1983 – July 1985
Degree: Master's in Business Administration
Date Awarded: 1985
3. **Name of School:** University of California, Davis
Date: July 1987 – October 1989
Degree: Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine
Date Awarded: 1989

4. **Name of School:** University of California, Davis
Date: July 1989 – October 1994
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy
Date Awarded: 1994

I have identified additional speeches that I inadvertently left off the original Committee Questionnaire I submitted. Please find the information below about these events.

1. **Title/Topic:** International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). FSIS Update
Place/Audience: Tampa, FL
Date: July 2017
2. **Title/Topic:** Update on FSIS Sampling Programs for Raw Beef
CY2015 and CY2016
Place/Audience: Tampa, FL
Date: June 2017
3. **Title/Topic:** Salmonella Update for NCC
Place/Audience: Washington, DC
Date: April 24, 2017
4. **Title/Topic:** Codex Use of Burden of Illness Estimates IAFP
Place/Audience: St. Louis, MO
Date: August 2016
5. **Title/Topic:** Revisiting the STEC Testing Approach FSIS Perspective on Methods
Place/Audience: St. Louis, MO
Date: July 2016
6. **Title/Topic:** IAFP FSIS Regulatory Update
Place/Audience: St. Louis, MO
Date: July 2016
7. **Title/Topic:** NCC Processors Update
Place/Audience: Washington, DC
Date: June 2016
8. **Title/Topic:** Interventions-Poultry Rinsate
Place/Audience: Washington, DC
Date: November 2015
9. **Title/Topic:** UJNR FSIS Intro.
Place/Audience: Washington, DC

Date: October 2015


10. **Title/Topic:** Codex ACaIT
Place/Audience: Portland, OR
Date: June 2015
11. **Title/Topic:** UJNR FSIS Intro
Place/Audience: Atlanta, GA
Date: October 2014
12. **Title/Topic:** A Day in the Life of a Sample
Place/Audience: Silver Spring, MD
Date: March 2014
13. **Title/Topic:** Update on FSIS Sampling Programs for Poultry
Place/Audience: Atlanta, GA
Date: February 2014
14. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Raw Red Meat Sampling Programs
Place/Audience: Washington, DC
Date: September 2013
15. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Sampling Programs
for Swine
Place/Audience: Dallas, TX
Date: May 2013
16. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Sampling Programs
Place/Audience: Dallas, TX
Date: March 2013
17. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Microbiological Sampling Programs
Place/Audience: Atlanta, GA
Date: January 2013
18. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Activities for the Detection and Isolation of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin
Producing E. coli (STEC)
Place/Audience: Athens, GA
Date: May 2012
19. **Title/Topic:** FSIS Activities for the Detection and Isolation of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin
Producing E. coli (STEC) in Beef
Place/Audience: Athens, GA
Date: April 2012

In addition, I was asked to clarify the address of the International Association for Food Protection, which is located at 2900 100th Street, Suite 309, Des Moines, Iowa 50322-3855.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be considered by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and I am available to answer any further questions you may have about my paperwork submissions.

Sincerely,

**JOSE
ESTEBAN**



Digitally signed by JOSE
ESTEBAN
Date: 2022.06.29 15:28:34 -04'00'

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



November 23, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Jose Emilio Esteban, who has been nominated by President Biden for the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

DAVID APOL

Digitally signed by DAVID
APOL
Date: 2021.11.23 15:31:14
-05'00'

David J. Apol
General Counsel

Enclosures



November 4, 2021

Mr. Stuart Bender
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture
J.L. Whitten Building
Room 347-W
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified

mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the Office of Ethics after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13989) and that I will be bound by it. Among other obligations, I will be required to recuse from particular matters involving specific parties involving my former employer or former clients for a period of two years after I am appointed, with the exception of federal, state and local government.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – OUTSIDE BOARD POSITION

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Food Protection, without compensation, as part of my official duties as Chief Scientist in USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with the International Association for Food Protection. For a period of one year after my resignation, I will have a “covered relationship” under the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 with the International Association for Food Protection unless I receive an authorization pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.502(d).

SECTION 3 – SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

My spouse is employed by the Benicia Unified School District in the State of California in a position for which she receives a fixed annual salary. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for as long as my spouse continues to work for the Benicia Unified School District, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the Benicia Unified School District is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

**JOSE
ESTEBAN**

Digitally signed by JOSE
ESTEBAN
Date: 2021.11.04 10:49:00
-04'00'

Jose Emilio Esteban

Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Esteban, Jose Emilio

Undersecretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:

Chief Scientist, Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA (4/2018 - Present)

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Esteban, Jose Emilio [electronically signed on 09/30/2021 by Esteban, Jose Emilio in integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 11/17/2021 by Bender, Stuart in integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification
/s/ Apol, David, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 11/23/2021 by Apol, David in Integrity.gov]

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	International Association for Food Protection	Iowa City, Iowa	Non-Profit	Executive Board member	7/2019	Present

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Roth IRA	No			
1.1	Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund Admiral Shares (VGSLLX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.2	Star Index Fund (VGSTX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.3	The Walt Disney Co. (DIS)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	IRA	No			
2.1	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Bond Index Fund Admiral Shares (VBILX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

None

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

None

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Teacher, Benicia Unified School District (Benicia, California)	N/A		salary	
2	Benicia Unified School District California State Teachers Retirement Fund (CALPERS)	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank #1 (cash account)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	U.S. bank #2 (cash account)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	U.S. bank #3 (cash account)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

#	CREDITOR NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	YEAR INCURRED	RATE	TERM
1	United Wholesale Mortgage	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$250,001 - \$500,000	2017	3%	30 year (fixed rate)
2	Sallie Mae	Student Loan	\$15,001 - \$50,000	2021	3.125%	180 months
3	Citizens Bank	Student Loan	\$50,001 - \$100,000	2021	3.49%	180 months

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
1.	1	This is an uncompensated position.
8.	2	I am a co-signer on this student loan for my adult child.
8.	3	I am a co-signer on this student loan for my adult child

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (limitations apply for PAS filers); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$166 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

Title 1 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101 et seq., as amended by the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13770 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number (that number, 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

September 21, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

Please be advised that pursuant to section 101(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on Thursday, November 4, 2021, is correct.

This information is current as of Wednesday, September 21, 2022. This date is within five days prior to the date of the first hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

JOSE ESTEBAN

Digitally signed by JOSE
ESTEBAN
Date: 2022.09.21 08:01:54
-04'00'

Dr. Emilio Esteban

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
Questions for Executive Nominees
117th Congress**

1. Basic Biographical Information

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Member, Farm Credit Administration Board	April 7, 2022

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Vincent	Garfield	Logan	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 3500 North College Avenue		
<u>City:</u> New York	<u>State:</u> NY	<u>Zip:</u> 10036	<u>City:</u> Fayetteville	<u>State:</u> AR	<u>Zip:</u> 72703

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
N/A					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
Year of Birth (Do not include month and day.)	Place of Birth
1958	Pawnee, OK

<i>Marital Status</i>					
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:					
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name (current spouse only)</i>			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
N/A			

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used (current spouse only)</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Check if Maiden Name</u>	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
N/A					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
N/A			

2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)		<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)		<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
		Est	Present	Est	Present		
Oklahoma State University	University	8/1975	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5/1979	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	B.S.	5/1979
University of Oklahoma Coll. of Law	University	8/1981	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12/1983	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	J.D.	12/1983
Columbia U International Affairs	University	9/1986	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5/1988	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	
			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		

3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<u>Type of Employment</u> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	<u>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</u>	<u>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</u>	<u>Location</u> (City and State only)	<u>Date Employment Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Employment Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Non-Government Employment	Native American Agriculture Fund	Chief Financial Officer	Fayetteville, AR	3/2019 Est X	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> X
Non-Government Employment	Permanens Capital L.P.	Senior Investment Advisor	New York, NY	3/2017 Est X	2/2019 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Other Federal Employment	Special Trustee for American Indians, Dept of the Interior	Special Trustee	Washington, DC	7/2014 Est X	1/2017 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Other	The Nations Group, LLC	Owner, Managing Member	New York, NY	4/2009 Est X	6/2014 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	The Nations Group Advisors, LLC	Investment Advisor	Leawood, KS	4/2010 Est X	3/2012 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Merrill Lynch Private Bank	Investment Advisor	New York, NY	3/2006 Est X	3/2009 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP	Attorney	New York, NY	6/2001 Est X	2/2006 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Corrao Miller Wiesenthal	Consultant	New York, NY	5/2000 Est X	5/2001 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employment	N/A	N/A	New York, NY	1/1998 Est X	4/2000 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Other Federal Employment	U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust	Contract Attorney	Washington, DC	9/1996 Est X	12/1997 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-Employment	N/A	N/A	New York, NY	6/1992 Est X	8/1996 Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>

Non-Government Employment	Haight Gardner Poor & Havens	Contract Attorney	New York, NY	10/1986	Est X	5/1992	Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	DLB Energy Company	Attorney	Oklahoma City, OK	2/1985	Est X	8/1986	Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
State Government Employment	State of Oklahoma, Attorney General	Attorney	Oklahoma City, OK	6/1983	Est X	1/1985	Est Present X <input type="checkbox"/>

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)	Est	Present
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Little Rock Branch	Member, Board of Directors	1/2021		Est X	Present <input type="checkbox"/> X
U.S. Department of the Treasury	Member, Financial Literacy Education Commission	2/2016	1/2017	Est X	Present X <input type="checkbox"/>
				Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

4. Honors and Awards

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Governor, Oklahoma State University Foundation
 Faculty, The Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma Bar Association
 Oklahoma State University, Alumnus of the Year (A&S)

5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less,

Parent-Teacher Associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam’s Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
Federal Bar Association	Current	Member
American Bar Association	Current	Member
Oklahoma Bar Association	Current	Member
Investments and Wealth Institute	Current	Member
Global Association of Risk Professionals	Current	Member

6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

Yes No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

--	--	--	--

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
NONE			

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
NONE		

7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Please provide the Committee with all listed publications via email or other digital format and list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>
NONE		

(B) List any formal speeches you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Please provide the Committee with copies of all listed speeches via email or other digital format and list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>
No formal speeches relevant to the position.		
Public appearances last five years:		
Remarks: Business Risk Analysis for Tribes	Native Business Summit, Tulsa, OK	May 14, 2019
Remarks: Tribal Governments	Oklahoma Bar Association, Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK	June 6, 2019
Remarks: Tribal Investment Program Structures	Permanens Investment Committee Symposium, New York, NY	October 3, 2019
Remarks: Tribal Opportunity Zones	State of Washington, Tribal Opportunity Zone Summit, Shelton, WA	October 30, 2019
Remarks: Food as a Social Determinant Perspectives	American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA	November 6, 2019
Remarks: Economic Development for Tribal Nations	Reservation Economic Summit, Las Vegas, NV	March 3, 2020
Remarks: Investing for Native Communities	Reservation Economic Summit, Las Vegas, NV	July 21, 2021

8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

No.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



May 3, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Vincent Logan, who has been nominated by President Biden for the position of Board Member, Farm Credit Administration.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

DAVID APOL

David J. Apol
General Counsel

Digitally signed by DAVID
APOL
Date: 2022.05.03 22:45:28
-04'00'

Enclosures



April 13, 2022

Jane Virga
Designated Agency Ethics Official
Farm Credit Administration
1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, VA 22102-5090

Dear Ms. Virga:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Board Member, of the Farm Credit Administration. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2) or 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(4). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13989) and that I will be bound by it. Among other obligations, I will be required to recuse from particular matters involving specific parties involving my former employer or former clients for a period of two years after I am appointed, with the exception of federal, state and local government.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – POSITIONS

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the following entities:

- Native American Agriculture Fund
- The Christensen Fund
- Oklahoma State University Foundation
- Native American Media Project

Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

In addition, upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

I am the owner of The Nations Group, LLC, a pass-through entity established to receive compensation for consulting services. This LLC is currently inactive, and I am not owed any fees for prior consulting services. During my appointment to the position of Board Member, this LLC will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the entity, except that I will comply with any requirements involving legal filings, taxes and fees that are necessary to maintain the entity while it is in an inactive status. In addition, during my appointment to the position of Board Member, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of The Nations Group, LLC. Finally, if I provide services to any client prior to my confirmation, all amounts owed to me by any client will be fixed before I assume the duties of the position of Board Member, and, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

DocuSign Envelope ID: 5CB062CF-376C-40E9-B2D8-55F818A063A1

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

4/13/2022

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Vincent Logan

Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Logan, Vincent

Board Member, Farm Credit Administration

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Logan, Vincent [electronically signed on 10/12/2021 by Logan, Vincent in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Virga, Jane M, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 04/27/2022 by Virga, Jane M in Integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by

/s/ Virga, Jane M, Ethics Official [electronically signed on 04/27/2022 by Virga, Jane M in Integrity.gov]

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification
/s/ Apol, David, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 05/03/2022 by Apol, David in Integrity.gov]

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	The Christensen Fund	San Francisco, California	Non-Profit	Board Member	8/2021	Present
2	Oklahoma State Univ. Foundation	Stillwater, Oklahoma	Non-Profit	Governor	9/2018	Present
3	The Nations Group, LLC	See Endnote New York, New York	LLC	Owner and Managing Member	3/2009	Present
4	Permanens Capital LP	New York, New York	LP	Financial advisor	5/2017	3/2019
5	Native American Agriculture Fund	Fayetteville, Arkansas	Trust	Chief Financial Officer	3/2019	Present
6	Native American Media Project	Norman, Oklahoma	Non-Profit	Secretary	1/2013	Present
7	Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium	Shawnee, Oklahoma	Non-Profit	Board Member	12/2017	7/2019
8	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	See Endnote St. Louis, Missouri	Federal Reserve bank	Director	1/2021	Present

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Native American Agriculture Fund 401(k)	No			
1.1	American Funds 2025 Target Retirement Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2	IRA	No			
2.1	Abbott Labs	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.2	Abbvie Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.3	Accenture PLC Ireland	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.4	American Express Co	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.5	Anthem Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.6	Apple Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.7	Baxter Intl In	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.8	Broadcom Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.9	Chevron Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.10	Chubb Ltd	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.11	Cisco Systems Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.12	Comcast Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.13	Duke Realty Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.14	Fidelity Information Svcs Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.15	Honeywell Intl Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.16	Intl Flavors Fragrances Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.17	JP Morgan Co	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.18	Linde PLC	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.19	Lord Abbett Bond-Debtenture Fund Class F	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.20	Lowes Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.21	Marsh & McLennan Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.22	McDonalds Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.23	Medtronic PLC	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.24	Microsoft	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.25	Mondelez Intl Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.26	Motorola Solutions Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.27	Nextera Energy Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.28	Packaging Corp America	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.29	Pepsico Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.30	Philip Morris Intl Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.31	Phillips 66 Co	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.32	Schwab Charles Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.33	Texas Instrments Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.34	T-JX Cos Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.35	Trane Tech PLC	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.36	Union Pacific Corp	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.37	United Health Group Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.38	WEC Energy Group Inc	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.39	Western Asset Institutional Government Money Market	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.40	AT&T	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.41	CME Group, Inc. (CME)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.42	CyrusOne, Inc. (CONE)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.43	Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.44	Merck & Co., Inc. (MRK)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.45	Organon & Co. (OGN)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	The Christensen Fund	N/A		Board member compensation	\$3,750
4	Native American Agriculture Fund	N/A		Salary	\$485,163
5	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	See Endnote		Board member compensation	\$2,300

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Native American Agriculture Fund 401(k)	Fayetteville, Arkansas	I will participate in this defined contribution plan after my separation but neither I nor my plan sponsor will make contributions.	3/2019

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	Native American Agriculture Fund	Fayetteville, Arkansas	Chief Financial Officer
2	Permanens Capital LP	New York, New York	Financial Advisor

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

None

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	AllianceBernstein Municipal Income New York Advisor	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		\$5,001 - \$15,000
2	Federated Hermes Kaufmann Small Cap Fund Institutional Shares	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF (IVV)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
4	MainStay Winslow Large Cap Growth Fund Class	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		\$2,501 - \$5,000
5	Polen Growth Fund Institutional Class	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		\$201 - \$1,000
6	Western Asset Institutional Government Money Market	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
7	U.S. bank (cash)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
8	Osage Mineral Trust (value not readily ascertainable)	See Endnote		Annuity cash payment	\$7,715
9	Undivided fractional interest in 13 tracts of land (value not readily ascertainable)	See Endnote		Grazing lease payments	\$24
10	Lord Abbett Short Duration Income Fund Class F (LDLFX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

None

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
1.	3	Entity holds no assets and produces no income.
1.	8	Board of Directors, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Little Rock Branch.
2.	5	Board of Directors compensation.
6.	8	Fractional interest in the Osage Mineral Trust, United States, as Trustee, including annuity cash payments.
6.	9	All 13 tracts are located in Osage County, Oklahoma, held in a general trust with the United States as trustee.

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (limitations apply for PAS filers); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$166 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

Title 1 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101 et seq., as amended by the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another; a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13770 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number (that number, 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

Farm Credit Administration

1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102-5090
(703) 883-4000



The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

Please be advised that pursuant to section 101(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in the OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on October 12, 2021, is correct, except that I have received the following additional payments:

- \$5,554.88 - AllianceBernstein Municipal Income Fund
- \$13.08 - Western Asset Government Money Market
- \$885.04 - iShares Core S&P 500 ETF
- \$251.90 - Lord Abbett Short Duration Fund
- \$3,348.56 - Polen Growth Fund
- \$3,206.65 - Federated Hermes Kaufmann Small-Cap Fund
- \$17,082.87 - Mainstay Winslow Large-Cap Growth Fund

This information is current as of September 21, 2022. This date is within five days prior to the date of the first hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Logan", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Vincent G. Logan

Copy to:

Deb Bortot
Office of Government Ethics

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
 Questions for Executive Nominees
 117th Congress**

1. Basic Biographical Information

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs	05/13/2022

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Alexis	Megan	Taylor	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 635 Capitol St NE		
City: Portland	State: OR	Zip: 97222	City: Salem	State: OR	Zip: 97301

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
<u>Year of Birth</u> (Do not include month and day.)	<u>Place of Birth</u>
1981	Dubuque, IA

<i>Marital Status</i>						
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:						
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed	
X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<i>Spouse's Name</i> (current spouse only)			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
NA			

Spouse's Other Names Used (current spouse only)						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Check if Maiden Name</u>	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

Children's Names (if over 18)			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
NA			

2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension /online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Iowa State University	University	Est 09/2000 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 08/2005 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BA	08/2005
Harvard Business School Online	University	Est 11/2021 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 11/2021 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate	11/2021

3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<u>Type of Employment</u> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPHS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other	<u>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</u>	<u>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</u>	<u>Location</u> (City and State only)	<u>Date Employment Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Employment Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
State Government Employment	Oregon Department of Agriculture	Director	Salem, OR	Est 01/2017 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> X
Federal employment	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Delegated the duties of the Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	Washington DC	Est 03/2016 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 12/2016 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Federal employment	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Deputy Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	Washington DC	Est 11/2014 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 03/2016 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Federal employment	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Chief of Staff, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	Washington DC	Est 05/2013 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 10/2014 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Federal employment	U.S. Senate; Senator Max Baucus	Legislative Assistant	Washington DC	Est 01/2011 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 04/2013 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Employment	U.S. House of Representatives;	Legislative Director	Washington DC	Est 06/2009 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est 12/2010 <input type="checkbox"/>

	Congressman Leonard Boswell						
Federal Employment	U.S. House of Representatives; Congressman Leonard Boswell	Legislative Assistant	Washington DC	05/2006	Est X	06/2009	Est □
Federal Employment	U.S. House of Representatives; Congressman Leonard Boswell	Staff Assistant	Washington DC	11/2005	Est □	05/2006	Est X
Military, U.S. Army Reserve	299 th Engineer Company	E-4, specialist	Fort Belvoir, VA	05/2006	Est X	10/2006	Est X
Non-Government Employment	Hops restaurant	Server	Alexandria, VA	09/2005	Est X	12/2005	Est X
Unemployment (fulltime student)			Ames, IA	08/2004	Est X	09/2005	Est X
Unemployment (just returned from military service)			Holy Cross, IA	06/2004	Est X	08/2004	Est X
Military, U.S. Army (active duty)	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	05/2004	Est □	05/2004	Est □
Military, U.S. Army (active duty)	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Baghdad, Iraq	06/2003	Est X	05/2004	Est □
Military, U.S. Army (active duty)	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Kuwait	05/2003	Est X	06/2003	Est X
Military, U.S. Army (active duty)	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	04/2003	Est X	05/2003	Est X
Military, U.S. Army (active duty)	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Dubuque, IA	02/2003	Est X	03/2003	Est X
Unemployment (fulltime student)	Iowa State University		Ames, IA	02/2002	Est □	02/2003	Est □

Non-Government Employment	Iowa State University, Office of Admissions	Admissions Assistant	Ames, IA	08/2001	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	01/2002	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment (fulltime student through summer term)				05/2001	Est X	08/2001	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Iowa State University, Office of Admissions	Admissions Assistant	Ames, IA	08/2000	Est X	05/2001	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Military, U.S. Army	U.S. Army Advanced Individual Training (AIT)	E-3, private	Fort Lee, VA	05/2000	Est X	08/2000	Est X
Military, U.S. Army Reserve	389 th Combat Engineer Battalion	E-4, specialist	Dubuque, IA	12/1998	Est <input type="checkbox"/>	08/2005	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
n/a		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

4. Honors and Awards

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Army Achievement Medal 2000

Philip A. Connolly Competition, Runner-up 2000

National Defense Service Medal 2004

Global War on Terrorism: Service Medal 2004

Global War on Terrorism: Expeditionary Medal 2004

Armed Forces Reserve Medal 2004

Friend of Wheat 2011, National Association of Wheat Growers

Friend of Wheat 2012, National Association of Wheat Growers

5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, Parent-Teacher Associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – lifetime member	2004-present	n/a

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)	Est 2006-present	n/a
Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)	2017-present	Board Member, Past President
Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)	2017-present	Board Member
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)	2017-present	Member; Board Member 2020/2021
NASDA Foundation	2018-present	At-Large Board Member
Oregon Food Bank	2019-present	Board Member; Board Advocacy Committee Chair 2022; Executive Committee 2022
Women in International Trade	2014-present	n/a

6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

No

(If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Senator John Tester (MT) campaign	Campaign volunteer in Montana	Phone banked, door knocked, etc	2012
Hillary for President	Campaign volunteer in Virginia	Phone banked, door knocked, etc	2016

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
Biden for President	\$500	2020
Biden Victory Fund	\$500	2020

7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Please provide the Committee with all listed publications via email or other digital format and list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>
In Conversation with #WomeninAg: Alexis Taylor	USDA Blog http://blogs.usda.gov/2016/03/14/in-conversation-with-womeninag-alexis-taylor/	March 14, 2016
What U.S. peanut donations mean to Haiti	Letter to the Editor, Washington Post https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-us-peanut-donations-mean-to-haiti/2016/05/01/1fe8a27c-0d61-11e6-bc53-db634ca94a2a_story.html	May 1, 2016
Connecting with Local Farmers, One Savory Dish at a Time	USDA Blog http://blogs.usda.gov/2016/05/03/connecting-with-local-farmers-one-savory-dish-at-a-time/	May 3, 2016
ODA Ag Quarterly various topics	ODA publication (<i>pdf provided of recent articles</i>)	Four times per year since 2017

(B) List any formal speeches you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Please provide the Committee with copies of all listed speeches via email or other digital format and list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

Note: * indicates there are no supporting documents available.

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>
Western Plant Board Annual Conference, welcome	Bend, OR	04/25/2022
2022 Oregon Dairy Industry Conference, Oregon Agriculture and Food – Looking ahead	Salem, OR	04/13/2022
Oregon FFA State Convention, welcome address	Redmond, OR	03/19/2022

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association Annual meeting, ODA update	Salem, OR	03/07/2022
Oregon sustainability Board, Update of ODA Sustainability report PPT attached separately	Virtual	12/10/2021
Oregon Bankers Association Annual Meeting, Oregon Agriculture Overview	Washington State	12/06/2021
Oregon Wheat Growers League Tri-state meeting, ODA update	Spokane, WA	12/01/2021
Oregon Water Resource Congress Annual meeting, ODA update	Hood River, OR	11/30/2021
Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual meeting, ODA update	Pendleton, OR	11/21/2021
National Conference of State Legislators – Ag Task Force, Safeguarding the Agriculture Supply Chain Against Future Challenges	Virtual	09/03/2021
Groundbreaking celebration, Dragonberry Produce	Canby, OR	08/26/2021
Oregon Cattlemen's Association – Midyear conference, Legislative update	Glenden Beach, OR	07/12/2021
Hearing on the state of Oregon agriculture before the Oregon Legislature, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	Virtual	05/25/2021
National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) Annual Meeting, Overview Oregon Agriculture	Virtual	05/20/2021
Hearing on Oregon's pesticide program before the Oregon Legislature, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	Virtual	05/18/2021

Hearing on Oregon organic agriculture before the Oregon Legislature, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources	Virtual	04/20/2021
Hearing on ODA's Budget hearing before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee, Oregon Legislature	Virtual	04/14/2021 & 04/19/2021
Dunn-Carney Ag Summit, ODA year in review	Virtual	01/29/2021
Hearing on Pesticide Regulation before the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Virtual	09/19/2020
Hearings on tariff impacts to Oregon Agriculture before the House Interim Committee On Agriculture and Land Use, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Virtual	09/19/2020
Hearings the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program before House Interim Committee On Agriculture and Land Use, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Virtual	09/14/2020
Hearings on Oregon OSHA Temporary Rules to Address Covid-19 and Covid-19 and the Oregon Food Supply Chain before the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Virtual	06/04/2020
Hearings on OSHA temporary rules in response to Covid-19, local meat processing capacity in light of	Virtual	05/26/2020

Covid-19, and effects of Covid-19 on the Farm to School program before the House Interim Committee On Agriculture and Land Use, Oregon Legislature Recording log		
Oregon Food Bank Network, Trends in the food system over the next 5-10 years	Salem, OR	02/04/2020
Dunn-Carney Ag Summit, ODA year in review	Salem, OR	01/24/2020
64th Annual American Hop Convention, welcome and overview of Oregon agriculture	Portland, OR	01/23/2020
NFU Women in Agriculture Conference, keynote	California	01/20/2020
Oregon Farm Bureau annual meeting, ODA year in review	Salem, OR	12/05/2019
Oregon Farm to School celebration, overview of F2S program in Oregon*	Portland, OR	10/03/2019
Gold Dust Farms – Women in Ag event, keynote	Southern Oregon/Klamath Falls area	08/27/2019
National Corn Growers Association Agri Industry Council, overview of ODA and Oregon Agriculture	Portland, OR	08/14/2019
OSU Days Malheur Experiment Station, overview Oregon agriculture	Ontario, OR	07/10/2019
10th International Herbage Seed Conference, welcome	Portland, OR	05/12/2019
Friends of Family Farmers Legislative day, ODA legislative update	Salem, OR	03/27/2019
Oregon FFA Annual Convention, welcome	Redmond, OR	03/24/2019

Oregon FFA State Degree lunch, keynote	Redmond, OR	03/23/2019
Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc Annual meeting, ODA update	Salem, OR	03/04/2019
ODA Budget hearing before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee, Oregon Legislature	Salem, OR	02/04-05/2019
Women in Ag Programs for 21st Century Farms and Ranches, Women in Agriculture	Virtual	01/29/2019
Dunn-Carney Ag Summit, ODA year in review	Salem, OR	01/25/2019
Hearing on Overview of Oregon Agriculture before the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Salem, OR	01/22/2019
Country Natural Beef's Annual meeting, keynote	Le Grande, OR	01/23/2019
Salem Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Agriculture overview	Salem, OR	01/14/2019
Rotary Club of Salem, Oregon Agriculture overview	Salem, OR	01/08/2019
Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting, ODA update	Oregon	12/1/2018
FDA FSMA conference, welcome	Portland, OR	11/27/2018
American Agricultural Law Association - 2018 Annual Meeting, Oregon agriculture Overview	Portland, OR	10/26/2018
Taste of Europe Event, panelist	Portland, OR	10/18/2018
Hearing on Lost Valley Farm before the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and	Salem, OR	09/25/2018

Natural Resources, Oregon Legislature Recording log		
Hearing on international trade before the Senate Interim Committee on Business and Transportation, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Salem, OR	09/24/2018
Farm to School Exchange with Tunisia, remarks*	Portland, OR	10/01/2018
International Livestock Identification Association, welcome	Bend, OR	07/16/2018
Hearing on Lost Valley Dairy before the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Salem, OR	05/21/2018
Northwest China Council, keynote	Portland, OR	04/19/2018
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association Annual meeting, ODA update	Salem, OR	02/25/2018
College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS), OSU leadership course PPT attached separately	Corvallis, OR	02/07/2018
Cultivating Change Portland Event, welcome	Portland, OR	02/02/2018
Dunn-Carney Ag Summit, ODA year in review	Salem, OR	01/26/2018
Oregon and Washington Potato Conference, ODA update	Kennewick, WA	01/24/2018
Oregon Seed Association annual meeting, ODA update	Salem, OR	01/16/2018
Oregon Winegrowers Association , ODA legislative update*	Salem, OR	01/10/2018

North Willamette Horticultural Society Meeting, Oregon agriculture overview	Clackamas County, OR	01/09/2018
Oregon Seed Growers League , Perspectives on Oregon Agriculture - Challenges and Opportunities Found in 2017*	Salem, OR	12/04/2017
Women in Agriculture Conference, keynote	Virtual	11/18/2017
Tri-state Wheat Growers meeting, introduction	Spokane, WA	11/09/2017
Yamhill SWCD annual meeting, welcome	Yamhill, OR	10/18/2017
Doing business in Oregon event	Portland, OR	10/13/2017
Hearings on Japanese Beetle Management and Pesticide regulation overview before the House Interim Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Oregon Legislature Recording log	Salem, OR	09/19/2017
PNWER conference: Economic impact of trade in the agriculture sector, keynote	Portland, OR	07/24/2017
Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, welcome	Portland, OR	07/18/2017
Idaho-East Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association Annual meeting, ODA update	McCall, ID	06/09/2017
Oregon Cattlemen's Association Midyear Conference, ODA update	Pendleton, OR	05/31/2017
Harney County Cattlemen's & Harney County Farm Bureau's joint Annual meeting, ODA update	Burns, OR	05/25/2017
OSU Ag Days, keynote	Corvallis, OR	05/03/2017

FFA annual conference State Degree lunch, keynote	Redmond, OR	03/25/2017
FFA annual conference, welcome	Redmond, OR	03/25/2017
Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), welcome at ag breakfast	Mt. Angel, OR	03/02/2017
ODA Budget hearing before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee, Oregon Legislature	Salem, OR	02/20-21/2017
Oregon Women for Agriculture*	Silverton, OR	02/17/2017
Dunn-Carney Annual Ag Summit, welcome and introduction*	Salem, OR	01/20/2017
Executive Women in Agriculture conference, speaker, women in leadership and FFAS update*	Chicago, IL	11/30 – 12/02/2016
International Food Assistance and Food Security Conference , FAS and USAID hosted, update on USDA's approach to food security*	Des Moines, IA	09/12/2016
Sweeteners Symposium, American Sugar Alliance, update on trade and farm bill programs*	Coeur D'Alene, ID	08/01/2016
National Corn Growers Association Conference, FFAS update*	Location unknown	08/2016 Exact date unknown
Ohio Corn and Wheat Collegiate Program, overview farm safety net, trade/foreign ag (as it relates to the Farm Bill), TPP*	Washington DC	07/19/2016
Commodity Classic – FFAS update to National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, National Association	New Orleans, LA	03/03-05/2016

of Wheat Growers, National Sorghum Producers*		
Iowa Cattlemen's Association, international trade update*	Des Moines, IA	01/29/2016
National Turkey Federation DC Fly-in, international trade update*	Washington DC	07/14/2015
National Pork Producers Council, Annual Fly-in, TPA and TPP update*	Washington DC	04/15/2016
Global Pulse Confederation, 2015 World Pulses Convention, trade overview and current trade issues*	Las Vegas, NV	04/12-15/2015 Exact date of presentation unknown
National Potato Council Fly-in, update on trade*	Washington DC	02/24/2015

8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

No

September 26, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition &
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington DC 20150

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition &
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington DC 20150

RE: Addendum to the Committee Questionnaire

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

During my September 6, 2022, interview with your staff counsels, we identified a presentation that I was a part of and a recent publication that was published after my Questionnaire and paperwork were submitted to the Committee. I have listed the information below and have attached it to this letter.

1. **Presentation to Tribal-State Task Force on Water**, June 21, 2022
2. **The Agriculture Quarterly**, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Summer 2022, Issue 425 - [Ag Quarterly Summer 2022 \(oregon.gov\)](https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/quarterly/summer2022)

Thank you again for the opportunity to be considered by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee and I am available to answer any further questions you may have about my paperwork submissions.

Sincerely,



Alexis M. Taylor



Oregon Department of Agriculture

Tribal-State Task Force on Water

June 21, 2022

Alexis Taylor, Director

Christina Higby, Tribal Liaison



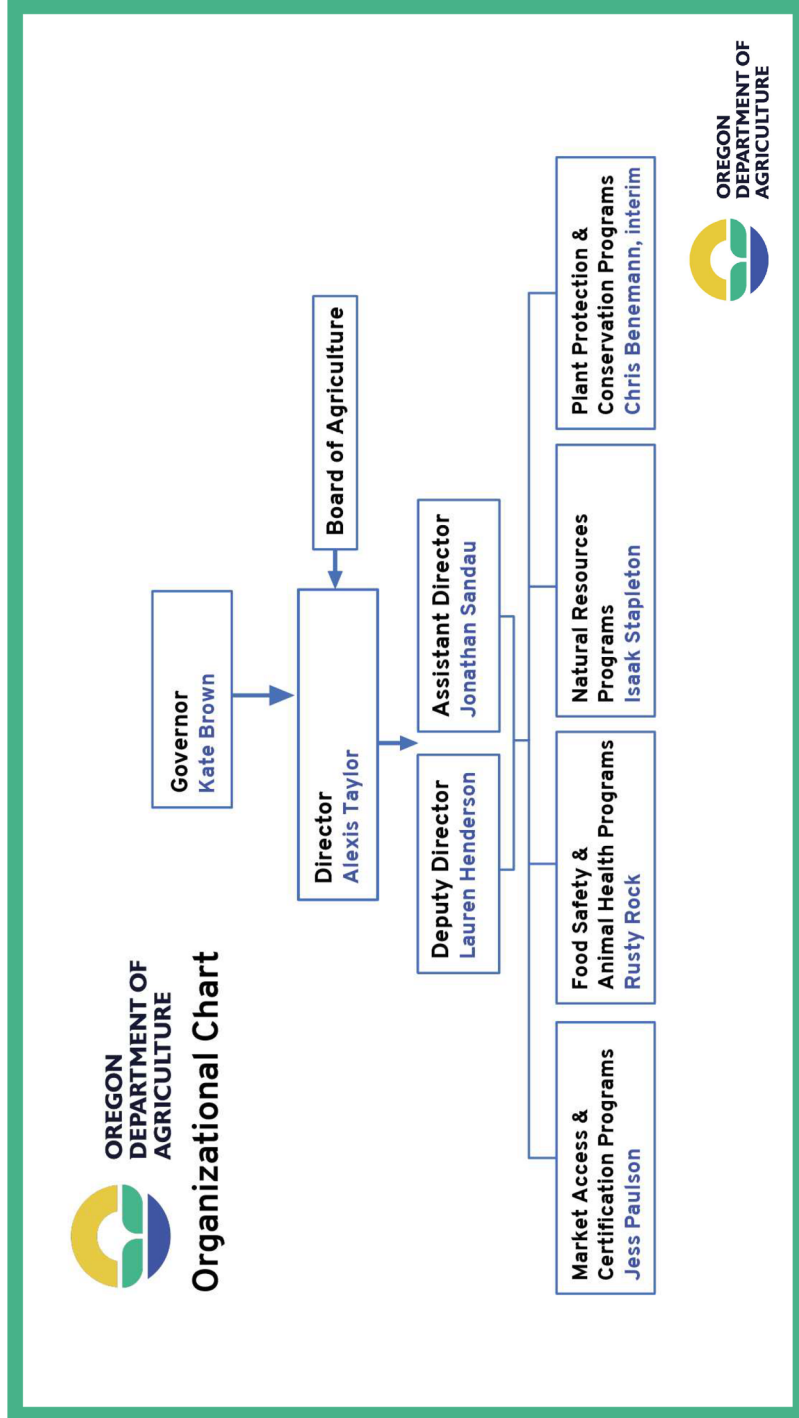
Mission

Ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection and certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food.

ODA is organized around this mission and is empowered primarily under the following:

- Oregon Revised Statutes 561, 564, 568 and 570 through 635, and 315 and
- Oregon Administrative Rules 603 through 605, 607, 609, 611, 617, 619, 623, 624, 642 through 647, 655 through 658, 664, 668 through 670, 678, and 972.





Food Safety Drinking Water Program

- OAR 333 Division 61 directs the Oregon Health Authority to enforce the Public Water System (PWS) requirements
- Contracts with OHA to oversee the Public Water Systems licensed by ODA
- Public vs Private Water Systems



Water quality is an essential component to food safety



Food Safety Shellfish Program

Estuary Water Quality Monitoring

- Monthly Testing - 7 estuaries
- 2021 - 500+ Samples

Marine Biotoxin Monitoring

- Year Around Testing - Crab, Mussels & Razor Clams
- 2021 - 500+ Samples

SHELLFISH PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

- Oregon Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council
- ODFW Collaboration - Shellfish Closures and Crab Monitoring
- OSP - Illegal Shellfish Harvesting & Patrol work
- Various Research Groups interested in metrics related to Shellfish in Oregon



Plant Protection & Conservation Insect Pest Prevention & Management (IPPM)

- Protect Oregon's agriculture, horticulture, environment, and quality of life from damaging insect pests.

- Enhance or maintain the value of our agricultural and horticultural products.

- *Quarantines*
- *Survey & detection*
- *Eradication & control*
- *Identification*
- *Information sharing*



Plant Protection & Conservation **IPPM Partnerships & Collaboration**

- **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**
Collaboration on detection of invasive pest and response plans.
- **Oregon Invasive Species Council**
Lead outreach and communication efforts.



Zebra Mussels 2021

- Found in a pet store attached to aquatic plant (moss ball).
- ODFW notified ODA.
- Requires certification of moss balls in order to be imported into Oregon.

Plant Protection & Conservation Noxious Weed Control Program

Protects natural & agricultural resources

- Displace and compete with native and desirable economic plants
- Impact agricultural and forest economies and resources such as fish, wildlife, recreation, and overall watershed health.



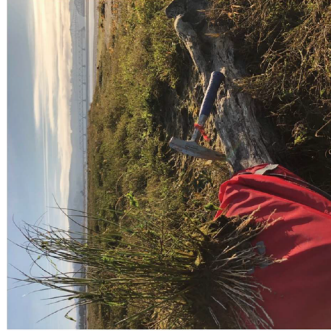
Program overview

- Early detection & rapid response
- Promote an intensive biological control program
- Maintain maps for priority listed noxious weeds
- Conduct statewide inventories and surveys
- Deliver education outreach programs
- Serve as a resource to the Oregon State Weed Board



Plant Protection & Conservation **Noxious Weed Partnerships & Collaboration**

- Oregon State Weed Board
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Forest Service Region 6
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Oregon Bureau of Land Management
- OWEB



Cordgrass 2020

- Identified 13 estuaries as high risk; mostly in S. Oregon
- Treatment consisted of manual removal and monitoring for re-growth
- Collaboration with Portland State University's Center for Lakes and Reservoirs and Roseburg Forest Products



Natural Resources Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)



- CAFO permits are issued to livestock owners to keep manure from polluting ground and surface water.
- ODA and DEQ partner to deliver the program and have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that describes each agency role.



Natural Resources

CAFO Program Details

- 505 CAFOs permitted statewide.
- Inspections every 10 months.
- Permit compliance = 95% or higher.
- Extensive public participation and outreach.



CAFO PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

- CAFO Advisory Committee
- EPA, USDA/NRCS, USDA/ FSA
- DEQ, ODF&W, WRD, OHA, DLCD
- Local county land use authorities
- Regional Land Grant Universities



Natural Resources / Fertilizer Program

Soil Health Program

Evaluate & implement soil health and climate smart agricultural practices

SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

- USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, USDA/Climate Smart Agricultural Commodities
- Oregon colleges and universities including and university extension
- Oregon's commodity commissions
- Oregon Conservation Commission
- Oregon's Conservation Districts and Watershed Councils
- Oregon Global Warming Commission

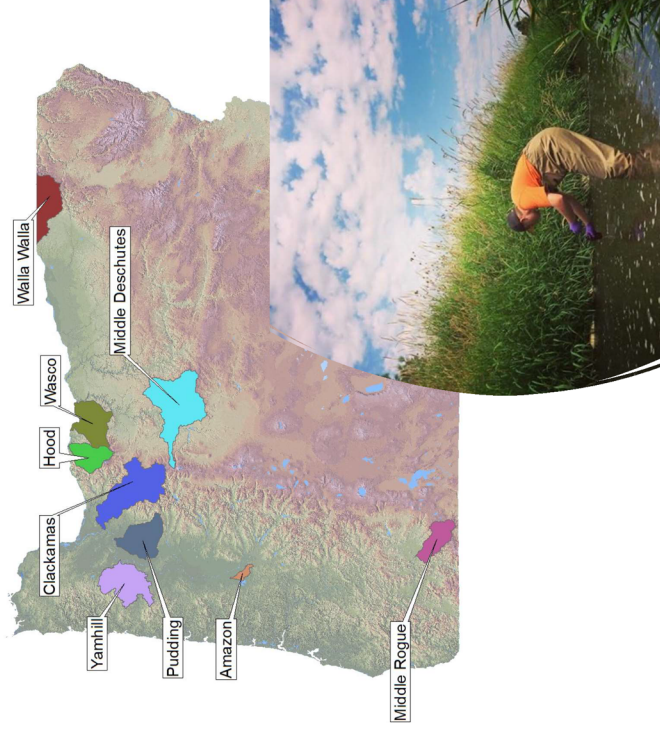


Pesticide Stewardship Partnership

- Promote voluntary changes in pesticide use practices that improve water quality
- Initiated in 1999 in the Hood River area
- Utilizes local expertise and water quality sampling results to evaluate reasons for pesticide occurrences and recommend potential solutions to address those occurrences

Water Quality Sampling and Analysis

- 134 compounds
- 5-11 samples sites in each PSP



Pesticide Collection Events

- 719,000 lbs of unusable or unwanted pesticides collected between 2006 and 2021.
- 2022 events in Pendleton, Ontario, Roseburg, Medford, Clackamas, Madras, Mt. Angel



PESTICIDES PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Water Quality Pesticide Management Team
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Watershed and other natural resource groups
- Local landowners and growers
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Tribal governments



Natural Resources

Agriculture Water Quality Program

Oregon's division of responsibility for water quality

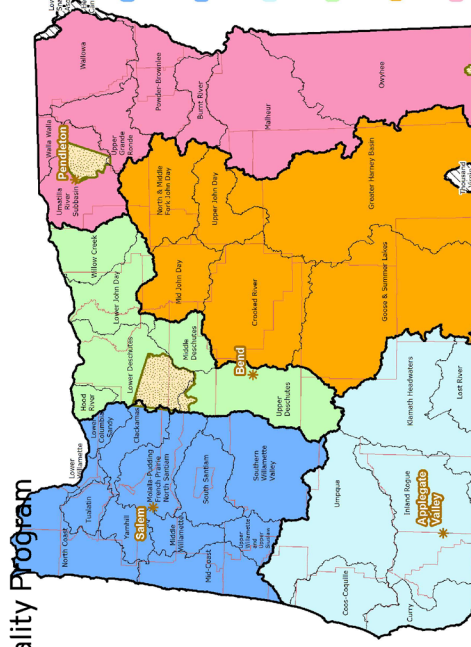
- DEQ – urban, municipal, transportation, non-ag point sources, federal
- ODF – forestry on private and non-federal land
- ODA – CAFOs (Permitted) & Agricultural Water Quality Program
- Ag activities on non-federal & non-Tribal Trust land

Ag WQ Management Act: 1993

Prevent and control water pollution from ag activities

38 Ag WQ Management Areas

- Local Advisory Committees (LACs)
- Area Plans and Rules (Regulations)
- SWCDs key for
 - Outreach technical assistance
 - Seeking funding
 - Implementing projects
 - Monitoring



Natural Resources

Agricultural Water Quality Area Rules

Waste Rule: ORS 468B (included in all management areas)

- Don't pollute
- Don't place wastes where they are likely to discharge to water
- Don't discharge to violate WQS

Streamside Vegetation Rule (multiple versions; included in all management areas)

Agricultural landowners must allow vegetation to establish and grow along:

- Perennial streams to provide shade, stabilize banks, and filter out pollutants from overland flows.
- Seasonal streams to stabilize banks and filter out pollutants from overland flows.





Ag WQ Partnerships and Advisory Groups

- Board of Agriculture
- Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Agricultural Water Quality Program Advisory Committee
 - Ad hoc
 - Includes agricultural representatives and conservation/environmental representatives.
- Local Water Quality Management Area Advisory Committees
 - 38 management area committees (see OAR 603-090-0020).
 - Public and private interests; can include members of Indian Tribes.



Ag Drainage Channel Maintenance Program

Simplified regulatory process to clean channels while protecting aquatic resources

Applies to:

- Traditionally-maintained channels that provided drainage in last 5 years
- Non-ESH
- Channels dry at time of work

How it works:

- ODA notice is an alternative to DSL permit
- Free, fast process
- Requirements: streamside veg, timing of work, equipment (variances available)

<https://oda.direct/AgChannelMaintenance>



Other ODA Water Related Activities

- Water basin plans and studies
- Scenic Waterways
- Wetlands
- Oregon Drought Readiness Council



Communications & Interactions

- ODA Gov-to-Gov Relations with Oregon Tribes Policy
- Annual Activities Report
- Annual Letter on Planned Rulemakings & Activities
- LCIS CRC & NRWG Cluster Meetings
- Tribal Liaison
- Record Destruction Process



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

QUESTIONS?



THE AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY

IN
THIS ISSUE

1 Director Taylor to USDA
Sandau named Assistant Director

2 Updates from the Oregon Department of Agriculture

3 Oregon Seafood Processing Grants
Hemp Program Updates
Help Wanted

4 Canada & U.K. Trade Missions
Coming Soon

Director Taylor to USDA

As many of you know, on May 13, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate me as the next U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) undersecretary for trade and foreign affairs. The formal nomination will begin a lengthy process, including a confirmation hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee and ultimately a vote by the full Senate. Until the Senate confirms me, Oregon Governor Brown is gracious enough to allow me to serve as ODA Director and help the agency make a smooth transition.



While I am honored to be called back to federal service, it is difficult for me to leave Oregon and ODA. While weighing my options, it was the diplomatic and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine that pushed me to know this was the right next move for me. I felt compelled to step into the global arena again and help the most vulnerable as the world deals with a growing global food security crisis.

I want to sincerely thank everyone at ODA for making my time in Oregon so special. I have been so fortunate to work with some of the most talented people in state government. I joined ODA in 2017 after working 12 years in Washington D.C. As I am heading back to USDA, I am reflecting on how grateful I am for everyone in this agency.

There is no other place like Oregon when it comes to agriculture. I am thankful to Oregon's agricultural community who welcomed me, educated me, and inspired me to think outside the box. The farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors I have met during my time as director and traveling to 36 counties showed me first-hand how unique Oregon agriculture really is. In Oregon we are lucky to have huge agricultural diversity. The agricultural community is incredibly creative in how they produce the products we all love while protecting our state's natural resources. I will take what I have learned into my next role and continue to work to move agriculture forward.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sandau named ODA Assistant Director

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) named Jonathan Sandau assistant director effective May 1, 2022.



Sandau joined ODA in early 2020 as a special assistant to the director focusing on the legislature, budget development, and strategic planning. Shortly after his hire, the COVID-19 pandemic began, and then Oregon was hit with several natural disasters, including wildfires, a deep freeze, and severe heat.

During his time with ODA, Jonathan led several large-scale efforts to help Oregon's farmers and ranchers through the many adversities they faced. Projects included a statewide distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), securing \$50 million in state and federal emergency funds, and most recently, guiding the creation of the Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP), providing nearly \$40 million in relief for those affected by Oregon's natural disasters in 2021.

As Assistant Director, Sandau will primarily lead the agency's legislative and external affairs work. He previously worked for the Oregon Farm Bureau, Congressman Kurt Schrader, and Governor John Kitzhaber. Throughout his career, agriculture has remained a focus of his career. Sandau's family has farmed in Marion County, Oregon, for generations.



Updates from the Oregon Department of Agriculture

OREGON DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

On Tuesday, June 21, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) opened a second round of Oregon Disaster Assistance Program (ODAP) applications. Oregon farmers and ranchers may apply for assistance from the remaining pool of about \$19.5 million. The participating lenders are familiar with agriculture and are now accepting applications through July 19. To apply contact one of the following lending institutions:

- Umpqua Bank
- Columbia Bank
- Bank of Eastern Oregon
- Old West Federal Credit Union

ODAP requirements and eligibility remains the same in the second round. Eligibility for ODAP is determined by percent loss in 2021 measured against an operation's 3-year average income with a maximum payment of \$125,000 or \$150,000. Size of operation in acres, sales, or other metrics are not a factor for eligibility.

ODA created ODAP using a \$40 million investment from the Oregon Legislature to assist farmers and ranchers who suffered financial losses during one or more of the natural disasters that hit the state in 2021. ODAP is designed to complement U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster assistance. Federal programs are currently accepting applications and USDA's Disaster Tool can help navigate farmers and ranchers through the process.

For more information about the ODAP application process, a sample application, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) please visit <https://oda.direct/ODAP>. All materials are also available in Spanish.

HIGH PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) first confirmed the presence of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Oregon on May 6, 2022. Since then, NVSL has confirmed three additional cases in non-commercial backyard flocks. As a result, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) worked with each flock owner to ensure humane depopulation, stopping the further spread. Counties affected by HPAI to date include Lane, Linn, Malheur, and Polk. In addition, Malheur County was part of a regional quarantine due to detecting HPAI in nearby Idaho.

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that transmits efficiently among wild and domestic bird species. Symptoms include:

- diarrhea,
- incoordination,
- lethargy,
- coughing and sneezing,
- and sudden death.



Although birds infected with HPAI may not always display outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in various ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds and by contaminated equipment, clothing, and shoes of caretakers.

If you have domesticated backyard birds, please increase your biosecurity, and keep your birds separated from wild birds, especially waterfowl. If you have birds that appear sick

or have died of respiratory or neurological disease, please call ODA at 503-986-4711 (Alt Phone: 1-800-347-7028). The risk of HPAI to human health is low, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If you see sick or dead wild birds, do not collect or handle them but report the incident directly to ODFW at 866-968-2600 or Wildlife.Health@odfw.oregon.gov.

For more tips on protecting your backyard flock, please visit <https://oda.direct/AI> or en Español at <https://oda.direct/AIESP>.

OREGON MEAT GRANT UPDATE

ODA chose six Oregon meat processing businesses to receive \$2 million in Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grants. The purpose of the grant is to expand meat processing capacity statewide for Oregon-raised livestock.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a need for greater resilience in Oregon's food systems, especially meat products. The small number of existing meat processors in the state have long waitlists making it difficult for Oregon's producers to get their product to market.

The six grant awardees represent federal and state inspection programs and a mix of harvested livestock species from all over the state.

Grant awardees:

- Billy Bob's Butcher Shop (Elgin) \$ 435,210.93
- Central Oregon Butcher Boys (Prineville) \$105,598.19
- Crystal Creek Meats (Roseburg) \$382,707.09
- Mobile Ranch Butchering (Bandon) \$299,762.84
- Mountain Valley Meat Service (Parkdale) \$341,510.02
- The Meating Place (Hillsboro) \$435,210.93

The Oregon Legislature recognized the need and provided the \$2 million in grants and instructed ODA to distribute using a competitive process. The number of grant applications ODA received illustrates the demand for resources. ODA received 44 grant applications requesting a total of \$14 million in upgrades and expansions.

Grant applications now available for Oregon's seafood industry



The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is now accepting applications for \$1.5 million in grants supporting Oregon's seafood industry. Earlier this year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it would distribute approximately \$50 million to 24 states and one US territory to help defray the costs incurred by the seafood processing facilities and processing vessels preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are available at ODA online at <https://oda.direct/SPG> and are due by July 29, 2022.

"We appreciate actions taken by Congress and the USDA for the continued support of our seafood industry throughout the pandemic," said Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture. "Our seafood sector invested in protecting their workers and sustaining local economies by responding to market changes and consumer demands. These funds provide a level of relief and allow our seafood producers to continue to provide high-quality seafood that consumers around the world know and love."

The grant program is funded through Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. States are encouraged to prioritize applications that benefit smaller processors and vessels, socially disadvantaged processors, veteran processors, and/or underserved communities. For grants intending to serve these entities, applicants should engage and involve those beneficiaries when developing projects and applications.

Help Wanted!

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its market disruptions, the demand for employees, especially for experienced or highly trained employees, far exceeds the supply. According to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics there are 11.4 million job openings across the country as of the last day of April 2022. State agencies including the Oregon Department of Agriculture are not exempt from the challenges finding staff.

ODA hiring managers are working hard to fill key roles throughout the agency. Retirements, promotions, new opportunities, and new positions created by the legislature are all contributing to vacant positions within ODA. Open jobs include everything from natural resource specialists, program managers, brand inspectors, shipping point inspectors, and various support staff.

In May 2022, Oregon added 6,200 jobs, following gains averaging 6,000 jobs in the prior six months. Oregon's unemployment rate also edged down to 3.6% in May, from

Oregon Hemp Program Updates

Several changes have been implemented to the Oregon Hemp Program in 2022. ODA works hard to provide the hemp industry and interested parties with up-to-date information through contact with program staff, community and virtual presentations and direct emails. To receive hemp program email updates, subscribe online: <https://oda.fyi/SubscribeHemp>

To date, Oregon's Hemp Program has:

208 hemp growers, 217 grow sites, 283 hemp handlers (initial processor), and 174 licenses pending.

HEMP APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED

Beginning 2022, a deadline for hemp applications was implemented for May 31. ODA cannot consider any applications to grow hemp that same year if received after that date. By federal and state law a person cannot legally grow hemp in Oregon without a license from ODA.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

In January 2022, Oregon became a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved hemp state. As part of the federal program, all key participants in the hemp operation must pass a criminal background check before ODA can issue a license to grow hemp. Only those with no felony convictions related to a controlled substance in the last 10 years will be eligible to be licensed to grow hemp. For more information, please visit: <https://oda.direct/HempGrowers>

HEMP MARKETPLACE

Oregon House Bill 3000 directs the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) to create rules around adult use of cannabinoids and the sales of adult use cannabinoids to minors. Rules restricting sales of adult use cannabinoids above 0.5 mg per container were effective July 2021.

Other rules restricting the sales of artificially derived cannabinoids in hemp items, industrial hemp-derived vapor items, and limiting THC in hemp items to both adults and minors were filed in December 2021. The rules are effective starting July 2022 (OAR Chapter 845 Division 26). For more information, visit: <https://oda.direct/HempLawsRules>

3.7% in April, reaching its lowest level in more than two years. The rate is close to Oregon's record low of 3.4%, from November 2019 through February 2020. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.6% in both April and May 2022.

The effects of the very tight labor market is being felt agencywide. ODA is invested in continuing to provide to critical programs and services all Oregonians rely on. Our staff continue to shift roles to cover service gaps caused by vacant positions. While service levels remain stable, hiring managers are getting creative in finding talent including further diversifying where jobs are posted and involving staff to help recruit people for positions statewide.

If you or anyone you know is interested in a career in agriculture, please visit the state of Oregon's online job hub (<https://oda.fyi/OregonGovJobs>) and enter Oregon Department of Agriculture in the search bar or click on the Company arrow and select Department of Agriculture.

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE
AG QUARTERLY VIA EMAIL
VISIT: ODA.FYI/SUBSCRIBE**

The Agriculture Quarterly (ISSN 0897-7143)
is published quarterly & distributed free of charge.



ODA in CANADA and U.K.

The Oregon and Washington state departments of agriculture worked together to bring a showcase of Oregon and Washington wine and food products to two of the 2022 Northwest Wine & Food Expedition Trade Tasting events in Toronto and Montreal in early June.

The events brought ODA, WSDA, Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) and the NW Wine Coalition together as well as 10 food and beverage companies and 17 wineries from Oregon. The purpose of the trade mission was to introduce Pacific Northwest food and wine to the eastern Canadian market to explore and expand distribution. ODA is proud to be a part of the continuing effort to promote Oregon agriculture worldwide. See a multimedia version of this story online at: <https://oda.fyi/Canada2022>

In late June, ODA was proud to be a part of a USDA agribusiness trade mission to the United Kingdom. The trade mission delegation of approximately 70 people representing 12 state departments of agriculture, industry groups from wine to soybeans, and many agribusinesses, were interested in exploring export opportunities in this important market.

Trade mission participants including Oregon wineries and Oregon's MSC certified sustainable seafood companies, Pacific Seafood and Bornstein Seafood, met directly with potential customers, received in-depth market briefings, and participated in several site visits during their time in the U.K.

COMING SOON

CAFO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 14, 2022 • 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
ODA Salem Office, Basement, Conference Room D
+ virtual via Microsoft Teams
<https://oda.direct/Meetings>

**PESTICIDE ANALYTICAL & RESPONSE CENTER (PARC)
BOARD MEETING**

JULY 20, 2022 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location TBD
<https://oda.direct/PARC>

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AUGUST 8, 2022 • TBD
<https://oda.direct/meetings>

OREGON STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING

AUGUST 16-18, 2022
Ontario, OR • In-person & virtual meeting
See website for meeting agenda and details
<https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

**PESTICIDE ANALYTICAL & RESPONSE CENTER (PARC)
BOARD MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location TBD
<https://oda.direct/PARC>

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



May 20, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Alexis M. Taylor, who has been nominated by President Biden for the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

DAVID APOL

Digitally signed by DAVID
APOL
Date: 2022.05.20 18:44:15
-0400

David J. Apol
General Counsel

Enclosures



May 9, 2022

Mr. Stuart Bender
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture
J.L. Whitten Building
Room 347-W
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds. I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the Office of

Ethics after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13989) and that I will be bound by it. Among other obligations, I will be required to recuse from particular matters involving specific parties involving my former employer or former clients for a period of two years after I am appointed, with the exception of states and local governments.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – EMPLOYMENT RELATED INTERESTS

Upon confirmation, I will resign my position as Director of Oregon Department of Agriculture. For a period of one year after my resignation, I will have a “covered relationship” under the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d), the agency will grant me a written authorization to participate personally and substantially in particular matters involving specific parties in which I know the Oregon Department of Agriculture is a party or represents a party. However, I understand that any authorization will not allow me to participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I previously participated as Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 3 – OTHER RESIGNATIONS

Upon confirmation, I will also resign from my positions with the following entities:

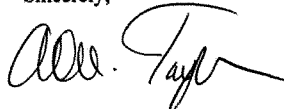
- Board Member, Oregon Food Bank;
- Board Member, NASDA Foundation;
- Board Member, Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA);
- Board Member, Western United States Agriculture Trade Association (WUSATA).

In September, 2021, my position with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture ended. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my position ended or my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that any of these entities is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis M. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexis" and last name "Taylor" clearly distinguishable.

Alexis M. Taylor

Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Taylor, Alexis

Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Taylor, Alexis [electronically signed on 03/31/2022 by Taylor, Alexis in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 05/18/2022 by Bender, Stuart in Integrity.gov]

Other review conducted by

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification

/s/ Apol, David, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 05/20/2022 by Apol, David in Integrity.gov]

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Oregon Food Bank	Portland, Oregon	Non-Profit	Board of Director	1/2019	Present
2	Western United States Agricultural Trade Association	Vancouver, Washington	Non-Profit	Board of Directors	1/2017	Present
3	State of Oregon - Oregon Department of Agriculture	Salem, Oregon	State government	Director	1/2017	Present
4	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)	Arlington, Virginia	Non-Profit	Member, Board of Directors	9/2020	9/2021
5	NASDA Foundation	Arlington, Virginia	Non-Profit	Member, Board of Directors	1/2018	Present
6	Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture	See Endnote	Non-Profit	Member, Board of Directors	1/2017	Present

2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Defined Benefit Plan (value not readily ascertainable) \$1,200/month starting at age 65	N/A			None (or less than \$201)
2	State of Oregon - Oregon Department of Agriculture	N/A		Salary	\$230,760
3	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Individual Account Plan (IAP)	No			
3.1	Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.2	State Street Russell All Cap Index Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	State Street Global All Cap Equity EX US Index Fund	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4	Oregon PERS Growth Savings Plan (457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan)	No			
4.1	LifePath 2030	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.2	LifePath 2045	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.3	Large Company Value Stock Option	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.4	Socially Responsible Investment Option	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.5	Large Company Growth Stock Option	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.6	Small Company Stock Option	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Growth Savings Plan	Salem, Oregon	I will continue to participate in this 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. The Plan sponsor (the State of Oregon) did not make contributions to this plan.	1/2017
2	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Defined Benefit Plan	Salem, Oregon	I will continue to participate in this Defined Benefit Plan. I will receive a monthly payment based upon 5 years of State service starting at age 65.	1/2017

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
3	Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), Individual Account Plan	Salem	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor (the State of Oregon) did not make contributions to this plan.	1/2017

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	State of Oregon - Oregon Department of Agriculture	Salem, Oregon	Director of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

None

6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank #1 (cash account)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	Brokerage account	No			
2.1	Acorns Moderately Aggressive Portfolio	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3	Oregon College Savings Plan - 529	No			
3.1	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Class Shares (VSMPIX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.2	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares (VTFSX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund Institutional Shares (VIPIX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.4	DFA Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	DFA Commodity Strategy Portfolio Institutional Class Shares (DCMSX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3.6	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Shares (VBPIX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.7	Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund ETF Shares (BNDX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4	Oregon College Savings Plan - 529	No			
4.1	Vanguard total stock market index fund institutional plus	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.2	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares (VTFSX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.3	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund Institutional Shares (VIPIX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.4	DFA Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.5	DFA Commodity Strategy Portfolio Institutional Class Shares (DCMSX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.6	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Plus Shares (VEMPIX)	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
4.7	Vanguard total international bond index fund	Yes	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
5	U.S. bank #2 (cash account)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

#	CREDITOR NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	YEAR INCURRED	RATE	TERM
1	Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$250,001 - \$500,000	2017	3.375	30 years
2	SoFi	Personal Loan	\$50,001 - \$100,000	2020	12.58	84 months

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
1.	6	I served as the President of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture from September, 2020 to September, 2021.

Summary of Contents

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

2. Filer's Employment, Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (limitations apply for PAS filers); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$415 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$166 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

Title 1 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101 et seq., as amended by the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another; a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13770 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number (that number, 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

September 21, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

Please be advised that pursuant to section 101(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on Monday, May 9, 2022, is correct.

This information is current as of Wednesday, September 21, 2022. This date is within five days prior to the date of the first hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexis Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alexis Taylor

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Nomination Hearing: September 22, 2022**

*Dr. Jose Emilio Esteban, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety,
United States Department of Agriculture*

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

1. If you are confirmed, I look forward to working with you. If confirmed, do you agree, without reservation, to:
 - a. Promptly reply to any request for information from me or any duly constituted committee of the Congress and provide the requested information?

Yes, if confirmed, I commit to replying to requests for information promptly.

- b. Respond to my requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

Yes, if confirmed, I commit to responding to requests for data and technical assistance to assist with drafting legislation or implementation of the law.

- c. Notify me or my staff in advance of any public announcement of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

Yes. If confirmed, I will ensure you and your staff are notified about public announcements of major changes made during my tenure.

Ranking Member John Boozman

1. Regarding the poultry Salmonella Pilot Projects:
 - a. What is the current status of this endeavor?

My understanding is that at this point FSIS has received four proposals for pilot projects from poultry establishments. If confirmed, I would be happy to provide additional information to you and your staff about the Pilot.

- b. How many projects has the Agency approved?

At this time, no proposals have been approved.

- c. How many regulated establishments and companies are involved in these projects?

As Chief Scientist I have supported a team that is working with stakeholders to develop the pilot program. I am uncertain as to how many establishments may be involved with the current proposals but if I am confirmed, I commit to learning about all the elements of this program and providing additional information to you and your staff.

- d. Will these projects continue given the recent announcement to establish a new Salmonella framework and to declare Salmonella an adulterant in not ready to eat but appears ready to eat products?

Again, I support a team at FSIS that is considering these pilot projects. If I were to be confirmed, I commit to reviewing the applications in full and determining how the data that results from them could supplement the data and studies FSIS is compiling to inform the final strategy.

2. Inspector shortages impact plant operations and have posed challenges to regulated establishments during the pandemic. Can you discuss the status of the FSIS inspector force, what is the current vacancy rate and how does that compare to historical figures? What efforts are you pursuing to attract professionals to these positions?

FSIS continues to prioritize scheduling and staffing to ensure all establishments' inspection needs are met, while proactively recruiting to reduce the vacancy rate. FSIS offers competitive monetary recruitment and retention incentives to attract highly qualified professionals to its workforce and retain them. However, as Chief Scientist, this is not an area in which I have been deeply engaged.

If confirmed, I will ensure I am brought up to speed on FSIS workforce challenges and strategies in place to hire and retain qualified professionals across the agency.

This is an important issue and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you and your staff in future.

3. In recent years USDA and FDA signed a Formal Agreement for the regulation of foods produced using "animal cell culture technology", or "cell-based meat". The Agreement recognizes that USDA enforces the misbranding and adulteration of meat products in commerce and provides that USDA will "require that the labeling of human food products...be preapproved and then verified through inspection as required by FSIS regulations." The agencies also mutually agree that USDA and FDA will "develop joint principles for product labeling and claims to ensure that products are labeled consistently and transparently."
 - a. What is the status of finalizing this framework?

USDA and FDA worked together to develop a framework for regulating meat and poultry products made from cultured animal cells. It is currently being followed as both agencies work with companies seeking approval to bring these products to market.

- b. Can you describe the role that FSIS will both play as it relates to labeling of these food products?

As it does for conventional meat and poultry products, USDA will review labels for cell-cultured meat and poultry products to ensure they are not false or misleading before they can be sold to consumers. USDA plans to issue a proposed rule that will govern the labeling of meat and poultry products made from cultured cells.

- c. Do you envision labeling that describes cell-based meat and poultry as distinct from traditional or conventional meat and poultry production?

USDA is in the process of completing its review of the more than 1,000 comments received for the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the labeling of cell-cultured meat and poultry products. The comments will inform labeling regulations to ensure labels for these products are not false or misleading to consumers, promote transparency, and allow for fair competition.

- d. How will USDA's exclusive jurisdiction be preserved while the two agencies develop these "joint principles" and begin regulating cell-based meat and poultry products?

The agreement that USDA and FDA entered into regarding cell-cultured meat and poultry products clearly defines the scope of each agency's authority, and we are not concerned at this time that either agency's jurisdiction will be infringed upon.

4. Producers and regulated establishments have been frustrated over regulatory uncertainty involving FSIS that has a significant impact on their businesses' day to day operations and staffing. Recent actions related to line speeds in swine and poultry processing facilities leaves these businesses struggling when the rules of the road are constantly changing. If confirmed as Under Secretary what is your plan for rebuilding the relationship with the regulated community?

This is a very important issue. Throughout my career, I have sought to build relationships across government and with stakeholders to address important challenges. If I am confirmed as Under Secretary, I am committed to open communication and will prioritize engagement with industry on a host of issues, including line speeds.

5. In evaluating the instances of worker injuries in chicken processing facilities, USDA and the Department of Labor (DOL) determined they had insufficient resources to evaluate the safety record of approximately 50 poultry processing establishments operating at higher line speeds. USDA and DOL are instead relying on third party to conduct this evaluation. Why did the Administration forgo involving individuals with expertise in training poultry processing workers and familiarity with the daily tasks performed by these workers in the third-party review?

As Chief Scientist, I have not been involved in recent plans related to FSIS' action related to line speeds. However, I recognize this is an important issue and one that will require my attention should I be confirmed. I will prioritize getting fully briefed on all aspects of issues related to poultry line speeds and how USDA is responding.

6. I am sure you are aware of the recent modification of poultry line speed waivers and the new data submission requirements for waiver holders. Can you describe the steps the agency will take to protect sensitive data collected pursuant to these modifications, especially data subject to HIPAA protection?

In my role as the Chief Scientist, I have not been involved in the development of the FSIS' plans for waiver holders, however I am aware of USDA's recent announcement to modify poultry line speed waivers and study of the effects of increased line speeds on worker safety. If confirmed, you have my commitment that I will investigate the issues you have raised and work to ensure sensitive data is appropriately protected.

Senator Sherrod Brown

Mr. Esteban, COVID-19 shined a light on the vulnerabilities in our food system, including issues surrounding extremely fast line speeds in meat and poultry processing facilities and the serious harms this system has on workers, animals, and consumers.

1. Given the negative implications of higher line speeds on worker safety, food safety, and humane handling laws, please share what steps you would take to address this issue if you are confirmed?

FSIS is currently undertaking two evaluations of the impact of higher line speeds on worker safety, one in swine establishments and the other for poultry. However, as Chief Scientist, line speed is not an issue I have had experience working in previously, but I am committed to being fully briefed should I be confirmed. In addition, if confirmed as Under Secretary, I am committed to ensuring that the findings of these evaluations are accurate, the recommendations are sound, and the agency makes appropriate changes to its policies.

2. Mr. Esteban, COVID-19 also revealed how long supply chains and vertically integrated meat and poultry processing, which is controlled by only a handful of large corporations, undermines food security and drives food price inflation. My colleagues and I responded by providing USDA significant resources through the American Rescue Plan to build a more resilient food system. One area in which the USDA has invested heavily in is the development of local and regional food systems in particular small meat and poultry processing facilities through the USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program. Looking past the pandemic and the initial response through programs like the USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, what role do you see FSIS playing in supporting small, very small and niche meat processors?

One of the most important things we do to assist small, very small, and niche meat processors is to provide technical assistance before and after they receive a grant of inspection. In addition, we consider the impact of any new regulations on small, very small, and niche meat producers and make adjustments in compliance dates, record-keeping, and other requirements as appropriate. Thanks to investments provided by Congress we have also been able to successfully implement a program that reduces the overtime and holiday inspection fees paid by small and very small establishments and would like to see that program continue.

Small and very small establishments play an important role in the food system and in local rural economies. I am committed to open communication and collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure the strength of all of our processors, including our small, very small, and niche processors. Doing so will also ensure the production of safe food for consumers.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

1. Non-typhoidal Salmonella causes approximately 1.35 million illnesses, 26,500 hospitalizations, and 420 deaths each year in America according to the CDC. Over the past 25 years, the Salmonella illness rate in the United States has not substantially changed. Poultry products regulated by USDA are one of the top causes of these illnesses. Considering the advances in our scientific knowledge of this bacteria and the prevention tools available, this lack of progress is unacceptable. Current USDA regulations may be stifling improvement as the standards are not enforceable, meaning meat known to be contaminated with a high dose of the most virulent strain of antibiotic-resistant Salmonella can still be stamped “USDA inspected” and sold alongside uncontaminated products. The agency has not committed to removing these dangerous products from commerce until after they have caused an outbreak – increasing the chances of preventable harm and economic damage for consumers and industry alike. I was pleased to see USDA recently launch a new initiative to tackle Salmonella and propose an enforceable standard for raw breaded poultry. USDA should propose enforceable standards for more raw products, including the ones Americans are buying most often.

Can you commit to substantially reforming the current USDA poultry food safety regulations and creating enforceable final product standards for all raw poultry products to better prevent dangerously contaminated products from reaching consumers?

FSIS is hard at work developing a strategy that will reduce Salmonella illnesses linked to poultry products and is doing so in a transparent and collaborative way. If confirmed, I am committed to continue exploring ways to reduce Salmonella illnesses and ensuring safe poultry products are sold to consumers.

2. Dr. Esteban, meatpacking workers continue to face some of the most dangerous working conditions in the country with amputations occurring, on average, twice a week. Yet this work may become even more hazardous as large multinational meatpacking corporations continue to push for faster line speeds that further puts vulnerable workers at risk.

Under your leadership, what would FSIS do to prioritize worker safety over the profits of large meatpackers?

If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring a safe work environment for FSIS employees who are essential to the agency's mission. In addition, while FSIS does not regulate worker safety, it does have the authority to consider the impact of any of its regulations or policies on establishment workers.

With insight gained through study, I am confident that we can balance food safety, worker safety, and company viability without compromise. We must strike that balance and achieve all three if we are to maintain our status as having one of the best food safety systems in the world.

Senator Cory Booker

1. Two-thirds of medically important antibiotics sold in the United States are used to keep livestock healthy on factory farms. This gross overuse of antibiotics contributes to the deadly threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Consumers are concerned about this issue – rightly so – and pay a premium to purchase meat with USDA approved label claims such as “raised without antibiotics.” But it turns out that consumers are being deceived. In April of this year, a [new study](#) published in *Science* magazine identified antibiotics in one or more of the cattle in 42% of the feedyards at a slaughterhouse approved by the USDA for processing beef with a “raised without antibiotics” claim.
 - a. If confirmed, will you commit to establishing a rigorous empirical testing system within slaughter facilities to ensure that claims such as “raised without antibiotics” are truthful and accurate?

FSIS' goal is to better ensure that claims made about antibiotic use are truthful and not misleading. Should I be confirmed, I am committed to ensuring that FSIS-regulated products are safe, and accurately labeled and packaged so that consumers are protected from misbranding.

2. Under current policy, instead of defining animal-raising claims itself, the FSIS allows meat producers to create their own definitions for claims such as “humanely raised” or “ethically raised”. FSIS, without verifying whether producers are even meeting their own self-created standards, then approves labels on meat and poultry products that make these animal-raising claims. Neither the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 601-695, nor the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 451-472, grant FSIS the authority to regulate the on-farm treatment of animals or to inspect the farms where these animals are being raised. FSIS has acknowledged that it “does not regulate food animal production” and therefore “may not always have all the relevant information necessary to the proper evaluation of the animal raising practices described in a producer’s animal production protocol.”¹¹ Often the producers self-defined humane practices are merely the industry standard of care. In addition, multiple undercover investigations have revealed that some companies that label their products with FSIS-approved labels, claiming the

animals are humanely raised, are in fact abusing animals. This is obviously not consistent with what consumers believe they are purchasing when they pay a premium to buy these products.

- a. Given this absence of FSIS jurisdiction and dearth of information, how can FSIS verify that what companies are including on the food label applications concerning how animals are raised is truthful and accurate?

It is important to clarify that while FSIS is responsible for ensuring that product labels are truthful and not misleading, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has a separate "Processed Verified Program" that allows companies to propose their own label claims. Should I be confirmed, I am committed to working with you to ensure labels are truthful, accurate, and provide consumers with information they need. In addition, I am committed to working with AMS to ensure that any changes made in FSIS regulations will be reflected in any consumer facing, Process Verified Program label.

- b. If FSIS is unable to verify that these animal-raising label claims are truthful and accurate, will you commit to ending the FSIS practice of reviewing and approving animal-raising claims on food products?

As noted above, USDA is in the process of updating its guidance to strengthen the verification requirements for the most widely used animal-raising claims. Should I be confirmed, I am committed to ensuring food product labels are truthful and accurate.

- c. Assuming FSIS continues to approve animal-raising label claims notwithstanding these problems, if FSIS receives information that the conditions on a farm are blatantly inconsistent with the approved term or the information the entity submitted for label approval, will you commit to referring for prosecution such fraudulent conduct, pursuant to §§ 21 U.S.C. 676 (providing penalties for misdemeanor and felony violations)?

In my role as Chief Scientist, I am not familiar with penalties related to fraudulent claims. If confirmed, I commit to being brought up to speed on this issue and consulting with our General Counsel's office.

3. On numerous occasions, non-profit organizations requesting label approval files for a specific product label claim have been notified by the FSIS that it possesses no documentation related to the claim, suggesting that either the FSIS record-keeping system is flawed or the claim in question was not approved before entering the marketplace.
 - a. If confirmed, what actions do you intend to take to determine if unapproved label claims are a significant problem and, if so, how it can be addressed?

If confirmed, I will ensure that FSIS not only reevaluates the current guidance document but also reviews the documentation for existing claims and, if it is deficient, take appropriate action.

4. Downed animals are farmed animals being raised for food who are too injured, weak, or diseased to walk or stand without assistance. Farmed animals can become downed while at a farm, feedlot, market or auction; during transport; or at the slaughterhouse. The issue of downed animals has a long legislative and regulatory history. Currently, there are only pre-slaughter inspection regulations to prohibit the slaughter of downed cattle. There are no regulations for sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, or other equines. In 2002 Congress required that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) investigate and submit a Congressional report regarding downed animals.^[2] Twenty years later, no such report has ever been issued by USDA for pigs.
 - a. Due to the extremely high number of downed pigs entering our food system^[1], and the serious public health impacts accompanying adulterated meat, if confirmed will you commit that FSIS will expand the current prohibition on the slaughter of downed cattle to also prohibit the slaughter of downed pigs?

USDA's role in ensuring that animals presented for slaughter are handled humanely is vital to promoting animal welfare, preventing food waste, and fostering a safer work environment for in-plant employees. Consumers and producers must be confident that USDA-inspected and passed products are not only safe, but that the animals were handled and slaughtered in a manner to reduce needless suffering. In response to a 2013 petition from Farm Sanctuary, FSIS carefully considered the issues you describe and concluded that existing regulations are effective in ensuring that pigs are handled humanely at slaughter and that diseased livestock do not enter the human food supply.

If confirmed, I can commit to ensuring that USDA policies regarding downed animals are based on the latest available science and data. Should the science develop to support a connection between downer pigs and human health, it would be appropriate for USDA to take action to protect public health, just as USDA has taken action in the past to prohibit non-ambulatory cattle from entering the food supply. I will also ensure that FSIS continues to provide necessary training on humane handling and enforcement activities to its inspectors.

- b. If confirmed, will you commit that FSIS, in coordination with APHIS, will complete in 2023 the congressionally required report regarding downed pigs?

If confirmed, I commit to reviewing this issue, and providing Congress with any outstanding deliverables on this issue.

5. The Amazon Rainforest is being burned down so that more beef can be produced in Brazil. Big Companies like JBS slaughter those Brazilian cows in Brazil, ship the meat into the United States and repackage it here, and then USDA allows that meat to be sold in our stores labeled as a "Product of the USA". This fraudulent practice hurts our consumers, and it hurts ranchers here in the United States. A petition has been pending for four years at FSIS asking that FSIS address this issue.

- a. If confirmed, will you commit that FSIS will only allow “Product of the USA” label claims to be placed on meat that comes from animals that were born, raised and slaughtered in the United States?

Secretary Vilsack has committed to clarifying the definition for this label through rulemaking by the end of this year. FSIS is in the process of completing a comprehensive review of the label, which will guide the planned rulemaking. If confirmed, I am committed to working with FSIS to ensure this work continues. I look forward to working with you and members of the Committee as this process progresses.

6. More than ever, consumers are seeking to buy healthier products free from harmful chemicals associated with health risks. Meat manufacturers have taken advantage of this with claims like “uncured” and “no nitrates or nitrites added,” which make processed meat appear healthier. Unfortunately, these claims are misleading: these products are cured with nitrite, and they are no healthier than other processed meat. The only difference is the source of the nitrite: “Uncured” bacon is preserved using nitrite processed from celery or beets, and “cured” bacon is preserved using man-made sodium nitrite. Testing by Consumer Reports has also shown nitrates and nitrites, which have been linked to cancer, are found in processed meats labeled “Uncured” or “No Nitrates or Nitrites Added” at similar levels to those prepared with synthetic curing agents such as sodium nitrite. Not only has USDA allowed these misleading “no nitrites” statements to be placed on processed meat – it actually requires them, thanks to an outdated regulation that presumes meat can only be cured using synthetic nitrite. The USDA has adapted these rules slightly by requiring a small asterisk suggesting that “naturally occurring” nitrites may be present, but few consumers see or understand this disclaimer. Center for Science in the Public Interest and Consumer Reports petitioned USDA in 2019 to update its rules to eliminate these misleading statements and require “Nitrates or Nitrites Added,” disclosures on all processed meat where nitrites were used. USDA “granted” that petition in December 2020. But the regulations haven’t changed. A regulation now pending at OMB purports to amend the labeling requirements for processed meat, but it is not clear this regulation will remove these misleading “no nitrites” statements, or require consumers to be warned that nitrites have been added.

- a. If confirmed, will you commit that misleading “no nitrites” statements will be removed from processed meat labels, and that a disclosure “Nitrates or Nitrites Added” will be required wherever a source of these chemicals is used?

As stated in the [Unified Regulatory Agenda](#), FSIS plans to propose to amend its labeling requirements for processed meat and poultry products to establish new definitions for “Cured” and “Uncured.” USDA is responsible for verifying that the labels of products under our jurisdiction are truthful and not misleading, and should I be confirmed, I commit to ensuring labels do not allow any misleading claims concerning nitrites or nitrates on product labels. FSIS policies must continue to promote consumer access to information they need to make informed decisions about the products they serve their families.

¹¹*Product Labeling: Use of the Animal Raising Claims in the Labeling of Meat and Poultry Products*, 73 Fed. Reg. 60228, 60229 (Oct. 10, 2008).

¹² 7 U.S. Code § 1907.

¹³ Kimberly Kindy, *Downed Pigs are Turned Into Pork Products. A New Lawsuit Seeks to Stop That.*, Wash. Post (Feb. 6, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/downed-pigs-are-turned-into-pork-products-a-new-lawsuit-seeks-to-stop-that/2020/02/06/3f8302ea-46c8-11ea-bc78-8a18f7afcee7_story.html (An estimated one million downed pigs arrive at meat processing plants annually, and there is no way for consumers to determine whether the meat they eat is from a downed pig. “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that pork containing pathogens leads to about 525,000 infections, 2,900 hospitalizations and 82 deaths [in humans] annually. The USDA’s Office of Inspector General has issued numerous reports over the past decade criticizing the agency for its failure to stop the inhumane treatment of pigs in pork plants.”).

Senator Ben Ray Lujan

1. The American farmer population is dwindling while the global human consumption demand continues to rise. American farmers and American consumers are struggling to stay connected, especially with current beef labeling standards, which allow foreign meat that is processed in the U.S. to use the “Product of USA” label. This is misleading and confusing for consumers, while hurting American farmers and ranchers. Secretary Vilsack and other USDA officials have announced a review of the labeling standards to fix this “loop hole” and create a more accurate set of standards. Dr. Esteban, do you believe that the current labeling standards for the “Product of USA” label for beef is misleading and should be corrected to only be applied to products that come from beef that is born, raised and processed in the United States?

It is important that food product labels provide accurate information so that consumers can make informed purchasing decisions. USDA recognizes that the Product of USA label that can be applied to beef and pork products may be confusing to consumers. Secretary Vilsack has committed to clarifying the definition for this label through rulemaking by the end of this year. FSIS is in the process of completing a comprehensive review of the label, which will guide the planned rulemaking. I am committed to working with FSIS to ensure this work continues. I look forward to working with you and members of the Committee as this process progresses.

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock

Congratulations on your confirmation, Dr. Esteban. Georgia is a national leader in poultry production, so if confirmed, I look forward to working with you to support our poultry growers and Georgia’s consumers. Ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply is critical.

1. I believe that food safety regulations must be based in science to be effective and best protect consumers.

- a. How did FSIS utilize data and scientific information to determine that the agency should declare *Salmonella* as an adulterant in breaded and stuffed raw chicken products?

There have been at least 14 outbreaks attributed to these products, with the most recent one being in 2021. Even after significant improved handling instructions through labeling, consumers are not cooking this raw commodity properly. Declaring *Salmonella* an adulterant at a very low level increases public health protection while providing specific direction on how this product can be produced safely. If confirmed, I commit that policy and regulatory decisions will be made based on the latest available science and data. The decisions that we make on food safety must be based on the latest scientific information so that all stakeholders, from establishments to consumers, can have confidence in our policies.

- b. How will FSIS utilize data and science to develop the *Salmonella* framework expected to be published in the coming weeks?

FSIS has reviewed the relevant scientific literature, consulted with experts, convened roundtables with industry and consumer groups, and have active sampling projects collecting data that will support our ultimate strategy. The data gathering and exchange of information will continue to be a transparent and open process. If confirmed, you have my commitment that this effort will be supported by scientific data, including a peer-reviewed risk assessment, and that stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments on the framework.

- c. What effects does FSIS anticipate the declaration of *Salmonella* as an adulterant in breaded and stuffed raw chicken products will have on consumers, public health, and the companies producing these products?

FSIS expects a positive public health impact, as was found in Canada when it adopted a new policy towards these products. FSIS also expects industry to capitalize on new laboratory detection and quantification technology that is available to ensure that this is a safe product.

2. Regarding line speeds in poultry processing, I understand the necessary balance between worker safety and processing modernization.
 - a. How might the revocation of line speed waivers affect chicken product availability, consumer prices, poultry growers, and bird welfare?

As Chief Scientist, I have not been involved in recent plans related to FSIS' action related to line speeds. However, I recognize this is an important issue and one that will require my attention should I be confirmed. I will prioritize getting fully briefed on all aspects of issues related to poultry line speeds and how USDA is responding.

With insight gained through study, I am confident that we can balance food safety, worker safety, and company viability without compromise. We must strike that balance and achieve all three if we are to maintain our status as having one of the best food safety systems in the world.

- b. Given that FSIS's statutory mandate centers on food safety, and that a separate federal agency is responsible for workplace safety, do you believe FSIS have the necessary internal expertise to conduct a worker safety study related to line speeds? How will this study inform future rulemaking?

As noted above, as Chief Scientist, I have not been involved in recent plans related to FSIS' action related to line speeds. However, I am committed to being fully briefed on this issue if confirmed.

Senator Joni Ernst

1. What do you see as some of the biggest potential safety concerns in our food supply chain?

Our biggest potential safety concern in the meat and poultry supply is the fact that pathogens are constantly evolving, and we are dealing with new strains and types of bacteria and viruses that are often more virulent.

While this is not a food safety issue per se, foreign animal diseases, such as hog cholera and avian flu, are infecting our national herds and flocks. We need to work closely with and collaboratively across agencies, such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Agricultural Research Service so that these diseases do not result in significant reductions in meat and poultry supplies, losses to producers, and higher prices to consumers. If confirmed, I am committed to working closely with other agencies to address evolving concerns and challenges facing our food supply chain.

2. How do we incentivize graduates to pursue careers in food safety to address the current shortage of inspectors facing our food processing facilities?

Ensuring FSIS has a workforce to meet the needs of processing facilities is important and the agency currently offers competitive monetary recruitment and retention incentives to attract highly qualified professionals to its workforce and retain them.

The mix of food inspectors (FI), consumer safety investigators (CSI), and public health veterinarians (PHV) that compose FSIS field operations requires a wide range of training, however this is not the case for all positions. As Chief Scientist, this is not an area in which I have been deeply engaged, however, if confirmed, I am committed to being brought up to speed on FSIS workforce challenges and strategies in place to hire and retain qualified employees, as well as exploring ways to expand efforts to attract, incentivize, and retain employees, including training and career development.

Senator Tommy Tuberville

1. Food production is under constant scrutiny which is enhanced by misleading marketing techniques. It is crucial we do not overregulate the industry to ensure a smooth flow of

products from farm to fork. Will you commit to supporting transparency while also helping promote commonsense legislation to maintain a safe and bountiful food supply?

I believe it is important for consumers to have accurate information so they can make informed decisions about the food they purchase. One of FSIS's responsibilities is to ensure that labeling is not misleading, and I take that role very seriously. Additionally, FSIS endeavors to be as transparent as possible in developing new policies and rules. If confirmed, I am committed to working with all stakeholders in a transparent manner and working with you to ensure a safe food supply for all consumers.

2. Please detail your vision, if confirmed as Under Secretary, to continue progress toward FSIS' strategic goal of "modernizing inspections systems, policies and the use of scientific approaches." I am particularly interested in Goal 2.1.1 to "modernize scientific techniques and inspection procedures."

My vision is to incorporate into our policies and regulations a flexible framework that allows and encourages the implementation of new technologies as they become available. Adjusting our regulatory framework to reflect new scientific approaches enables us to incorporate a truly preventive approach into our policies and to develop modernized inspection systems.

3. I am sure you are aware of the recent modification of poultry line speed waivers and the new data submission requirements for waiver holders. Please detail steps the agency will take, under your leadership, to protect sensitive data collected pursuant to these modifications, especially data subject to HIPAA protection.

In my role as the Chief Scientist, I have not been involved in the development of the FSIS' plans for waiver holders, however I am aware of USDA's recent announcement on modifying poultry line speed waivers and the plan to study the effects of increased line speeds on worker safety. If confirmed, I will investigate the issues that you have raised and work to ensure sensitive data is appropriately protected.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Nomination Hearing: September 22, 2022
Mr. Vincent Garfield Logan, of New York,
to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

1. If you are confirmed, I look forward to working with you. If confirmed, do you agree, without reservation, to:

a. Promptly reply to any request for information from me or any duly constituted committee of the Congress and provide the requested information?

I will.

b. Respond to my requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

I will.

c. Notify me or my staff in advance of any public announcement of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

During my tenure at the Farm Credit Administration, I will notify, in advance, you and your staff of any major changes at the agency.

Ranking Member John Boozman

1. Much of your career has been in financial investment advising. How do you see yourself recalibrating your experience to serve the constituency of the Farm Credit Administration? What is your experience with agricultural credit issues?

Years in corporate finance gave me a thorough understanding of the complexities of credit, both as lender and borrower. Additionally, because of my second career as a professional investor, I know what investors seek in deploying capital to the bond market. Therefore, I am well aware of the challenges borrowers face in a rising rate environment and also the challenges of debt. System bonds provide the lifeblood for the Farm Credit System to serve its critical mission to provide for the credit needs of America's farmers and ranchers. If I am confirmed, I will use this unique perspective to serve Farm Credit Administration constituents. Further, in my current position serving Native American farmers and ranchers, I know how difficult borrowing can be, particularly with young, beginning, and small farmers

and ranchers. If I am confirmed, I will commit myself to serving the credit needs of America's farmers and ranchers, which the Farm Credit System was created to serve.

2. Crop insurance is a critical tool to producers in Arkansas and for producers around the country. This tool is also very important for the entities who finance them. What thoughts do you have about risk management and how should the Farm Credit Administration look at these tools as you consider the forecast for the agricultural economy?

Please know that I understand how critical the farm safety net—particularly crop insurance—is to farmers, ranchers, and their lenders. Without these programs, the difficult business of providing affordable credit to creditworthy farmers and ranchers would be *even more* difficult, and rural communities would suffer. Crop insurance is a valuable risk management tool, which Farm Credit institutions consider when making credit decisions. Utilizing available risk management tools and having access to affordable capital through the Farm Credit System help America's farmers and ranchers continue to provide the country's food and fiber during good and bad times.

3. The Farm Credit Administration has been promulgating multiple regulations in recent months. If confirmed, what will be your plan to quickly understand what the FCA is doing and how will you work to better understand the impacts of these regulations? Will you commit to working with this Committee on regulations that have a substantial impact on farmers and ranchers?

If I am confirmed, one of my first priorities will be to review the agency's unified agenda and get briefings on all the proposed rules under development. Having worked for the Departments of Justice and the Interior, I understand the rulemaking process. And I know that rulemaking can be an arduous and lengthy process. In general, I believe regulations should be in line with congressional intent and be minimally intrusive and not overly burdensome. I commit to working with the committee as we consider future rules.

Senator Sherrod Brown

1. Mr. Logan, it was nice to have the opportunity to talk with you in person in my office back in July.

As you know, the median age of farmers is older than the national median and only getting older. Recognizing food security is national security, this is a trend we need to address and do everything we can to make it easier for young and beginning farmers to be successful.

The Farm Credit System has made some progress in recent years serving young, beginning, and small farmers (YBS) and those producers marketing into local and regional food systems. We can and should do more.

Do you have any thoughts on how you might be able to use your position on the Farm Credit Administration board to build upon that progress and better serve and support young, beginning, and small farmers and those selling into local markets if you are confirmed?

I appreciated the chance to speak with you as well and look forward to meeting with you again. I am very supportive of the Farm Credit System’s mission to serve the credit needs of eligible, creditworthy young, beginning, and small (YBS) farmers and ranchers. Each Farm Credit direct-lending institution must have a plan and program that markets to, and serves the credit needs of, YBS borrowers in their respective territories. If I am confirmed, one of my first priorities as a board member will be to learn more about the individual programs of various Farm Credit System institutions across the country. I will work with the other members of the board to consider any future changes.

2. Mr. Logan, one related area I would like to also bring up is Farm Credit System lending to socially disadvantaged farmers, primarily producers of color.

We don’t know how FCS is doing in this regard, as FCS has said they legally can’t even collect the data, much less do anything proactive to improve their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lending, because federal rules prohibit it.

Do you have any thoughts on how you might use your position on the Farm Credit Administration board to address this issue to ensure the Farm Credit System is serving all of agriculture regardless of race, gender, or geography if you are confirmed?

You have identified what I consider to be the key to ensuring that Farm Credit serves its mission to agricultural borrowers: that is serving the credit needs of “all” eligible farmers and ranchers. It is the objective of Congress that the Farm Credit System, “be responsive to the credit needs of all types of agricultural producers having a basis for credit...” As a Native American, I know all too well the difficulties minorities and the underserved have obtaining credit. I commit that, if I am confirmed, I will work to ensure that “all” creditworthy agricultural producers have equal access to the services of the Farm Credit System.

Senator Tina Smith

1. In rural places across the country, there is tremendous need for new investments in healthcare, childcare, senior living, affordable housing and workforce housing, fire and

police stations as well as other community serving infrastructure. Farm credit institutions are interested in playing a larger role in financing these types of rural community facilities. Will you report back to this committee with specific recommendations on how the Farm Credit Agency can help increase opportunities for Farm Credit institutions to assist with critical infrastructure investments?

In my current position with the Native American Agriculture Fund, I am acutely aware of the needs of underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and their communities. I am particularly aware of the need for essential community facilities. The Farm Credit System, America's oldest government-sponsored enterprise, has a responsibility to serve creditworthy borrowers in these communities. The Farm Credit System has limited investment authorities that may be used to purchase bonds in essential rural community facilities—primarily healthcare and assisted-living facilities. If I am confirmed to a position on the Farm Credit Administration board, I look forward to learning more about these investments and the Farm Credit System's authorities in this area. And I'd be happy to work with you to see how this program may be improved or expanded.

Senator Joni Ernst

1. If confirmed to the Board, I would encourage you to collaborate closely with Mr. Glen Smith, an Iowa farmer and friend. As we work to get more young families to move to rural America, it is my understanding that there is a final rule coming in November to advance Young, Beginning, and Small Farmer programs in the Farm Credit System.
 - a. Should you be confirmed, what will you do to advance efforts to support Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers?

I am very supportive of the Farm Credit System's mission to serve the credit needs of eligible, creditworthy young, beginning, and small (YBS) farmers and ranchers. Each Farm Credit System direct-lending institution must have a plan and program that markets to, and serves the credit needs of, YBS borrowers in their respective territories. If I am confirmed, one of my first priorities as a board member will be to learn more about the individual programs of various Farm Credit System institutions across the country. I will work with the other members of the board to consider any future changes.

- b. Do you feel like financial institutions, like farm credit, could do more to support rural America?

Farm Credit's primary mission is to serve farmers' and ranchers' long- and short-term credit needs and the financing needs of agricultural cooperatives.

Farm Credit lends to rural electric, telephone, and other related cooperative service providers. Farm Credit also has limited investment authorities that may be used to purchase bonds in essential rural community facilities, primarily healthcare and assisted-living facilities. If I am confirmed, I plan to learn more about these investment authorities to determine how they can be improved or streamlined. I would be happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss ideas on how Farm Credit can better serve the needs of rural communities.

Senator Charles Grassley

1. The average age of a farmer in Iowa is 58, and roughly four times more farmers are older than age 65 than under age 35. There is growing concern, and rightly so, that foreign investments in farmland are making it harder for new and beginning farmers to get their start. There is an entire generation of young people that want to farm but are not able to get their start. If deep-pocketed investors come in, foreign or not, it drives up prices and makes it harder for new and beginning farmers to get started. Do you believe farm credit service associations should make loans to foreign individuals? Do you have ideas on how Congress or the Farm Credit Administration can help new and beginning farmers?

The Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, is the governing statute establishing the Farm Credit System and its authorities. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by the law and congressional intent regarding foreign ownership and all other issues that come before the board. And I would be happy to meet with you or your staff to better understand your concerns regarding foreign ownership of agricultural lands.

Regarding young, beginning, and small (YBS) farmers and ranchers. I am very supportive of the Farm Credit System's mission to serve their credit needs. Each Farm Credit System direct-lending institution must have a plan and program that markets to, and serves the credit needs of, YBS borrowers in their respective territories. If I am confirmed, one of my first priorities as a board member will be to learn more about the individual programs of various Farm Credit System institutions across the country. I will work with the other members of the board to consider any future changes.

**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Nomination Hearing
September 22, 2022**

*Ms. Alexis Taylor, of Iowa,
to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs,
United States Department of Agriculture*

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

1. If you are confirmed, I look forward to working with you. If confirmed, do you agree, without reservation, to:

a. Promptly reply to any request for information from me or any duly constituted committee of the Congress and provide the requested information?

Answer 1a: Yes, I will.

b. Respond to my requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

Answer 1b: Yes, I will.

c. Notify me or my staff in advance of any public announcement of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

Answer 1c: Yes, I will.

2. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) projection for this fall and winter projects 23 countries at either Phase 4 (emergency), at risk of famine, or Phase 3 (crisis), which is alarmingly high.

a. What are the greatest challenges in addressing global food insecurity and what are your priorities to address these challenges within the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area?

Answer 2a: Globally we are experiencing many challenges which could affect our ability to respond to the growing and acute food insecurity crisis as an international community. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic many of the most vulnerable nations are also experiencing production impacts brought about by extreme weather events and production and supply challenges. Additionally, the war in Ukraine has compounded the impact of these challenges and added immediacy and severity to the crisis. If confirmed, I am committed to partner with the White House, NSC, USAID, the State Department, and other Executive Branch partners, including through whole-of-government global food security initiatives like Feed the Future, to help effectively leverage USDA's policy and program efforts, and to represent the overall role that U.S. agriculture plays, in addressing short-term and longer-term global food security crisis

response and agricultural development strategies, and in seeing that the technical expertise of USDA can be utilized in building a capacity for resilience in the Feed the Future countries.

As part of these efforts, we will continue to promote science-based standards in trade and reliable agricultural data so that countries don't impose restrictive trade policies restricting the flow of agricultural goods.

- b. Given the high levels of need, how will you work with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure that our programs are both effective and efficient?

Answer 2b: If confirmed, I will ensure that USDA and USAID continue to maintain the already strong working relationships at every organizational level to deliver programs that are effective and efficient. USDA is a critical partner in the whole-of-government Global Food Security Strategy, Feed the Future. Through it, I commit to continue to closely coordinate with USAID and many other U.S. government stakeholders.

Further, I understand that USDA and USAID also partner directly through a number of interagency agreements leveraging the technical expertise of USDA including our scientists, regulatory bodies, and land grant universities in building the capacities of Feed the Future countries to be food secure. I believe that it is critical that USDA and USAID coordinate regularly on food assistance programming. Specifically, USDA invitation to USAID to provide input into the selection of priority countries, the evaluation of proposals, and the on-ground implementation of our food assistance programs.

Finally, USDA's technical specialists cooperate with USAID on FEWSNET and I would seek to continue that important work with USAID so that the important data and analyses FEWSNET produces can help inform our collective efforts in support of global food security.

3. I continually hear from producers and consumers who are concerned about imports of agricultural commodities being sold domestically with fraudulent "USDA Organic" certifications. This is troubling because it undercuts the integrity of the Organic label and disadvantages domestic organic producers. USDA is still working to address this issue as required by the 2018 Farm bill. How will you work with AMS to stop imports of products that are not organic, but that bear "USDA Organic" labels?

Answer 3: As an organic certifier in the state of Oregon I can attest to the importance of the organic label for consumers and organic producers. Ensuring the integrity of the USDA organic seal through enforcement and compliance efforts, particularly relative to organic imports, is a critical element to supporting trade. I also share your concerns on the negative impact that fraudulent imported organic products have on U.S. organic producers. U.S. producers of organic processed foods rely heavily on imports of ingredients that cannot be sourced domestically. If confirmed, I am committed to working with AMS and other appropriate officials to ensure our

existing organic agreements are upholding the organic label and exploring whether new tools in current or future agreements are required to maintain the high standards of the organic label in the United States.

Ranking Member John Boozman

1. Food aid, and more importantly, in-kind U.S. food, is an important component of the Foreign Agricultural Service's mission. Do you commit to working closely with USAID and your grant recipients to ensure U.S. food continues to be a predominant source of that international assistance?

Answer 1: If confirmed, I will continue to embrace the utilization of in-kind U.S. food as the driving force that enables the successes enjoyed by Food for Progress and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, USDA's cornerstone international food assistance programs. These programs both have a long, proud history that centers around the use of U.S. agricultural commodities to enable economic development and provide school meals globally, and during my tenure I am committed to continue to utilize U.S. commodities as a critical component in international assistance to build tomorrow's trade partners. I will also expand upon the close working relationships USDA enjoys with its USAID counterparts, and I will strongly advocate with my USAID colleagues for the continued utilization of U.S. agricultural commodities in Title II programming.

2. How will you work with both the Foreign Agricultural Service and the U.S. Codex Office jurisdiction to ensure science-based policies remain the backbone of our international institutions, like Codex and the FAO?

Answer 2: If confirmed, I will ensure not only robust collaboration between the Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Codex Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), but across the United States government to continue championing science- and evidence-based initiatives and policies bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally. The world is facing increasingly large and complex challenges, from the impact of climate change on production to the impact of the war in Ukraine on the global food supply. It remains essential that we uphold the core principles and values of international standard-setting bodies to ensure science-based food safety standards are established, which are the cornerstone to ensure fair trade. By leveraging FAS's extensive international experience and network, and the U.S. Codex Office's in-depth technical knowledge and engagements, I am confident in our ability to advance science as the necessary foundation on which to build critical outcomes beneficial to U.S. agriculture, as well as the global agricultural community.

3. As you know, Canadian TRQs for U.S. dairy products under USMCA have been a consistent point of frustration for U.S. dairy exporters who have been waiting to see the access promised under the Agreement be fully realized. In addition to the first dispute,

which the U.S. won, New Zealand has launched their own consultations on Canadian dairy TRQs under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the U.S. has launched a second set of consultations on the same issue under USMCA. How do you plan to support the U.S. Trade Representative to ensure the second consultations on this matter result in improved access and actual outcomes for U.S. stakeholders? How do you intend to ensure the first ever dispute under USMCA – and U.S. win – is not lost in a cycle of consultations and disputes?

Answer 3: If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to continue to press Canada on the meaningful access the U.S. secured in USMCA and utilizing all tools available to the federal government when necessary, and appropriate to achieve full market access benefits for all U.S. farmers, ranchers, and producers. Canada made clear commitments to U.S. dairy producers when USMCA was negotiated. Ensuring that Canada lives up to those commitments is fundamental to showing that trade policy works for our agriculture sector.

4. The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is a welcome announcement towards regaining some of the ties lost when the U.S. exited the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and yet, there remains ambiguity around how the IPEF will achieve stronger economic ties with interested trading partners. What will you do to ensure the IPEF leads to actual trade outcomes benefiting U.S. producers?

Answer 4: If confirmed, I will work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, who leads the trade pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), to ensure U.S. agricultural trade interests are maximized in the region. The Indo-Pacific region of the world is critical to American agriculture with 16 of the 25 largest U.S. agricultural export markets in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region accounting for \$40 billion in U.S. agricultural exports last year. I am excited about the potential opportunities that IPEF may bring for U.S. producers and exporters. If confirmed, I am interested in engaging with our agricultural community and within the Administration to provide meaningful market access, which is vital to keeping U.S. agricultural exports competitive, addressing non-tariff barriers our food and agricultural exports experience today, promoting the implementation of science and risk-based agricultural policies, and ensuring that the IPEF agreement includes enforcement mechanisms to ensure our trading partners are living up to their commitments to the U.S. and American producers. I am already encouraged by the progress made at the first in-person ministerial in Los Angeles in early September, and I hope to keep up the momentum as I join the Administration's efforts

5. The U.S. is the leading cultivator of genetically engineered crops, and a world-leader in agricultural biotechnology. As the world faces changing rainfall and wildfire patterns, increased input costs, and strains on global supply chains, agricultural biotechnology offers transformative solutions. Such technologies can increase yield, reduce land and water use, and improve crop resilience. If confirmed, will you utilize your role to ensure market access for U.S. agricultural biotechnology products, and to leverage U.S. leadership in agricultural biotechnology (and related technologies, such as synthetic

biology) to enhance export opportunities for American farmers and producers and increase global food security?

Answer 5: Continuing to feed a growing world population in the face of significant challenges, whether that is a changing climate's impact on production or the war in Ukraine's impact on the global food supply, will continue to take innovation and technology advancements. If confirmed, I will leverage our relationships with trading partners bilaterally and through regional and international fora, such as the World Trade Organization and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, among others. Regulations in our partner countries affect not only our ability to trade in today's products of agricultural biotechnology, of which we exported nearly \$50 billion worth of biotech-derived corn, cotton, and soy products in 2021, but also stifle investment in and the development of new products of these technologies. I welcome the opportunity to engage with our trading partners to ensure we can expand the tools farmers have at their disposal to continue to feed a growing world population and build resilience throughout our food systems. If confirmed, I will also be responsive to and transparent with our domestic agricultural innovators in industry, academia, government, and on farms both small and large. They are leading the way on exciting developments that promise to contribute to the resolution of our most pressing global problems.

Senator Sherrod Brown

1. Thank you, Ms. Taylor, for your service to this country in multiple ways. With the many roles you've had over your career and your perspective growing up on a family farm, you are in a unique position to appreciate the needs of Ohio farmers as well as the historic impact of trade policy in this country for industrial production.

Ohio is a leading exporter of agricultural products, with exports valued at \$4.5 billion in the last year alone, led by our top commodities – soybeans and corn. The corn refining industry, in particular, plays a significant role in Ohio's economy, supporting over \$467 million in total wages and more than \$2 billion in total economy impact.

But, unfortunately for our farmers, a quarter of U.S. agricultural exports still go to China, a country that imposes regulations with no transparency, cheats our trade laws, has failed time and again to honor its trade commitments. Moreover, they continue to weaponize agricultural imports in response to our domestic trade enforcement policy.

Our farmers deserve better than to be left to the whim of the Chinese Communist Party's export controls. We must diversify our trading partners for agricultural products to provide the reliability and sustainability that our farmers need.

In your role at USDA, how will you work to diversify our agricultural exports away from non-market economies that engage in unfair trade practices?

Answer: The People’s Republic of China (PRC) is a large and important market, but also one which poses significant challenges for our producers. I believe that continuing to trade with the PRC is a stabilizing influence in the relationship, but we must be realistic about the risks and challenges of doing business there. As we saw during the trade dispute with China having over reliance on any single market can have unpredictable and negative impacts on our farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is among the most reliable exporters in the world, and we need equally reliable trading partners. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with our agricultural community on priority markets and utilizing FAS’ market development programs to support building relationships in a diverse set of markets around the world. The Administration seeks to diversify supply chains to ensure we do not have strategic vulnerabilities, and we are also ramping up our export promotion efforts. Now that pandemic restrictions are easing, we are having great success with our renewed trade shows and trade missions in major markets around the world. USDA would be happy to host Ohio producers and government leaders at these events.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

1. New York State has more than 4,000 dairy farms of all sizes – making New York the fourth largest producer of dairy in the United States. Global demand for U.S. – and New York – dairy products continues to rise, and it’s important USDA works closely with the USTR to remove barriers to increased trade.

Ms. Taylor, can you please discuss how you will work with USDA career staff and technical experts as well as the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to expand foreign market access for America’s dairy producers?

Answer: If confirmed, I am committed to engaging with U.S. dairy producers to understand their priority export markets and working with my colleagues at USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to address any barriers American agricultural exports that exist under current agreements. Additionally, I look forward to working to promote U.S. dairy exports in other markets and pressing for initiatives that will open or expand U.S. dairy market access around the world.

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock

Ms. Taylor, congratulation on your nomination. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade, I held a hearing this year focused on the trade priorities of our farmers. In this hearing, it was clear that our farmers are frustrated with a lack of leadership within the administration on agriculture trade issues. I am thrilled that our committee is now working to advance your nomination. Separately, I also hope the Senate will act to swiftly confirm Doug McKalip to be the Chief Agriculture Negotiator within the Office of the U.S.

Trade Representative. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and Mr. McKalip on many issues affecting Georgia's farmers.

1. Georgia's produce industry has faced unprecedented challenges in recent years, including a significant increase in seasonal Mexican imports.
 - a. If confirmed, will you commit to working with me, as well as partners at USTR, to address this issue and find ways to better support produce growers in Georgia and across the southeast?

Answer 1a: Ensuring that our trade policy works for U.S. producers is critical for strong rural and urban communities across the country. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to ensure that our trade policy works for all producers, including produce growers from Georgia.

- b. What actions can USDA take to strengthen the competitiveness of Georgia's specialty crop producers?

Answer 1b: If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to find ways to address the challenges of competing with imports of seasonal fruits and vegetables. I will also request that the staff of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service explore export promotion opportunities for Georgia's specialty crop producers. I will also consult with my colleagues in the domestic agencies of USDA to ensure that Georgia's specialty crop producers are fully utilizing existing USDA programs. It is important that the U.S. continue to promote research, innovation, and technology advancements, which work together to create strong local and regional markets for producers, as well as help us to grow international markets.

U.S. producers set the standard for quality, safety, and sustainability in the world and if confirmed I am committed to ensuring U.S. producers are not disadvantaged by trade barriers and have strong and diverse export markets with meaningful access in which to compete.

2. Last June, I led a bipartisan letter to Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Tai that was cosigned by 18 of my colleagues. This letter urged USDA and USTR to work together, alongside industry stakeholders, to reduce nontariff trade barriers faced by our peanut farmers when exporting to the European Union. Over a year later, these barriers remain. If confirmed, will you commit to swiftly working with me, as well as industry and USTR partners, to address these trade barriers and expand market access for our domestic peanut industry?

Answer 2: If confirmed, I will work with you and your staff, other interested members of Congress and my USDA, Food and Drug Administration, and U.S. Trade Representative colleagues to continue existing efforts to directly engage our EU counterparts on market barriers

related to aflatoxin testing requirements and the treatment of rejected U.S. peanut shipments. I recognize the importance of the EU market for U.S. peanut exporters and will prioritize partnerships with industry to maintain and expand market access for U.S. growers. Non-tariff barriers are a major challenge to market access for many U.S. agricultural products in important markets around the world, including the EU.

3. Georgia is a national leader in pecan production, and my state's pecan growers benefit from access to strong international markets. I remain concerned that Georgia's pecan sector is facing an excessively high tariff of up to 100 percent when exporting product to India, functionally closing the market to domestic growers and shellers. If confirmed, will you commit to working with me, as well as partners at USTR, to address this trade barrier and expand export opportunities for Georgia-grown pecans?

Answer 3: I appreciate hearing your concern for India's exorbitantly high tariffs and the negative impacts it imposes on export opportunities for American producers, including Georgia pecan growers. If confirmed, I will work with you and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to reduce the burdensome tariff. Coordinating with my Foreign Agricultural Service and USTR colleagues, I will continue to raise the issue with India's government bilaterally and through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework negotiations and the World Trade Organization mechanisms. I will also work with the U.S. pecan industry and the FAS overseas attaches on the ground in India to increase consumer awareness of the product and expand market opportunities.

Senator John Hoeven

1. North Dakota sugarbeet farmers are experiencing steep increases in input costs while receiving low returns, creating a serious squeeze on their bottom lines. This makes it even more critical that the U.S. sugar program provides a strong safety net for producers.

The program was designed to help U.S. sugar farmers — not foreign importers — and should be administered in a manner that does not lower prices received by farmers. Decisions should be made based on supply, not price, consistent with congressional intent in the farm bill.

Recently, the administration has imported sugar above the minimum tariff rate quota (TRQ) required by our World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments. These increases came at a time when the domestic market was adequately supplied according to USDA's own measure — with a stocks-to-use ratio between 13.5 percent and 15.5 percent.

My constituents are troubled by this trend and I share their concerns.

- a) Will you commit to using USDA's own metric, a stocks-to-use ratio between 13.5 percent and 15.5 percent, when determining if supplies are adequate?

Answer 1a: If confirmed, I am committed to fully engaging in the management of the U.S. sugar program and understanding the current guidelines USDA is utilizing to make program decisions. Additionally, I am committed to transparent engagement with Congress and the sugar industry on the management of the program and ensuring that it balances the needs of the market and supporting our domestic sugar industry as laid out in the Farm Bill.

- b) When the market is adequately supplied according to that measure, and when no credible evidence of a shortage exists, will you reject additional imports of foreign sugar?

Answer 1b: If confirmed, I am committed to transparent engagement with Congress on the management of the program and ensuring that it balances the needs of the market and supporting our domestic sugar industry as laid out in the Farm Bill.

- c) Will you ensure sugar policy is administered based on Farm Bill requirements and WTO obligations?

Answer 1c: If confirmed, I am committed to managing the U.S. sugar program to balance the needs of the market and supporting our domestic sugar industry as laid out in the Farm Bill. I am also committed to managing the sugar program within our existing trade commitments, including the WTO.

2. At the end of May, the Biden administration announced the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Our farmers and ranchers understand the importance of fair market access to the Indo-Pacific region. I was disappointed to see that the IPEF does not include market access provisions, including tariff reductions, for U.S. agricultural exports.

That's why I joined Senator Thune in sending a letter to Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack raising concerns about the lack of these commitments.

Will you commit to advocate for America's farmers and ranchers by ensuring any trade agreement includes clear market access provisions for U.S. agricultural exports?

Answer 2: The Indo-Pacific region of the world is critical to American agriculture with 16 of the 25 largest U.S. agricultural export markets in the Asia-Pacific region, including some of the fastest growing markets in Southeast Asia. I am excited about the potential opportunities that IPEF may bring for our producers and exporters. If confirmed, I am interested in engaging with our agricultural community and within the administration to provide meaningful market access which is vital to keeping U.S. agricultural exports competitive, addressing non-tariff barriers our food and agricultural exports experience today, implementation of science and risk-based

agricultural policies, and ensuring that IPEF have enforcement mechanisms to ensure our trading partners are living up to their commitments to the U.S. farmers, ranchers, and producers.

Senator Tommy Tuberville

1. What gaps in U.S. agricultural trade policy are you aware of that threaten the industry's success and plan to prioritize if confirmed?

Answer: I believe that ensuring globally that science-based, rules-based regulatory processes and policies are being used and followed in a transparent and predictable way is paramount for our agricultural sector across the global. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative on addressing non-tariff barriers which prevent American producers from achieving meaningful market access in priority regions, where demand for U.S. food and agricultural products is exponentially increasing.

Senator Charles Grassley

1. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I helped to shepherd through a Free-Trade Agreement between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada called USMCA. The agreement helped America's farmers, manufacturers, workers, and consumers. And I am proud that it passed the Senate with 89 votes. We need to keep moving forward in expanding export markets for our agricultural products. Do you think the passage of USMCA was a good thing? Did Oregon and Iowa producers see the benefits from its passage? Would you support other free-trade agreements modeled after USMCA in other parts of the world like the Indo-Pacific, United Kingdom, and Kenya?

Answer: If confirmed, I will support the enforcement of USMCA. This includes ensuring that Mexico follows a transparent and science-based approach in its treatment of products of agricultural biotechnology and that needed solutions to address restrictive Canadian dairy allocation measures are placed front and center in USMCA dispute settlement efforts. Since the passage of USMCA, our exports to Mexico and Canada have increased, on average, over 20 percent, benefitting soybean and wheat farmers in Iowa and Oregon. I will work closely with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative on a number of collaborative endeavors in expanding the global footprint for American producers. This includes identifying non-tariff agricultural trade barriers that we can address through existing fora, like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, to continue to yield valuable opportunities like full access for U.S. potatoes to Mexico and an agreement with Japan to increase the beef safeguard trigger level under the U.S.- Japan Trade Agreement. I will also work to open new trade opportunities for U.S. farmers using USDA trade promotion tools, such as agribusiness trade missions and international trade shows.