

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Senate Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Thune and Durbin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing America's farmers, ranchers, state co-regulators, veterinarians and meat, poultry, and egg industries, we encourage you to swiftly bring to the Senate floor for confirmation the nomination of Dr. Mindy Brashears as Under Secretary of Food Safety.

Dr. Brashears is eminently qualified to fulfill the critical role of overseeing the safety of the nation's meat, poultry, and egg products. Prior to her nomination, Dr. Brashears served as a professor of food safety and public health at Texas Tech University. She is widely recognized as an international leader in pre- and post-harvest environments and their relation to foodborne pathogens. Additionally, Dr. Brashears has led global efforts to improve food safety and ensure food security in underserved areas.

For more than five years, the United States Department of Agriculture has not had a confirmed Under Secretary in the essential mission area of food safety. American consumers enjoy the safest and most secure food supply in the world and for a position vital to public trust to remain vacant for that period of time is in no one's best interest.

Without a doubt, we believe Dr. Brashears is the best choice to fulfill this function. Her unique background and experience regarding food safety issues is unparalleled. Moreover, her work since assuming her duties as Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety engaging with the regulated community, small and very small processing facilities, and consumer groups have shown her leadership on these issues.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned respectfully request Dr. Brashears' nomination expeditiously be brought forward for confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association

Catfish Farmers of America  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Institute  
United Egg Producers