

July 20, 2021

TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Senator Robert Menendez
Chair
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jim Risch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

The food and agriculture trade associations listed below respectfully recommend prompt confirmation of the Honorable Kenneth Salazar to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. We regard our nation's relationship with Mexico to be of first order importance and submit that Senator Salazar is a proven statesman with keen insights into this long, rich and complex bilateral relationship.

Our associations represent much of the food and agriculture sector that is responsible for roughly one-fifth of the country's economic activity, directly supporting more than 20 million jobs - constituting more than 13 percent of total U.S. employment. As a net producing nation of food and agriculture products, foreign markets are critical to the economic vitality of the food and agriculture sector.

Mexico is one of America's most important food and agriculture trade partners. NAFTA has yielded strong benefits to both countries and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) promises to build upon those gains. However, issues regarding labor, migration, and trade related policies face significant challenges.

We support President Biden's nomination of Senator Salazar to fill this critical ambassadorial role in strengthening one of America's most important bilateral relationships.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Animal Health Institute
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Empire State Potato Growers
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
International Dairy Foods Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Turkey Federation
North American Meat Institute
North American Renderers Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Sweetener Users Association
The Hardwood Federation
U.S. Dairy Export Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice
Washington State Potato Commission