

March 6, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for your efforts to reform the United Nations in ways that deliver value to U.S. farmers, ranchers, growers, food manufacturers, and agribusinesses. As the United States rightly reassesses its role across the UN, the election of the next Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presents a rare opportunity to put America first by reasserting U.S. leadership within this consequential UN agency. We therefore respectfully request that your Administration back a U.S. candidate for Director-General, specifically Ms. Beth Bechdol, who is uniquely positioned to win the election and lead meaningful FAO reform, delivering another victory for your America First agenda while strengthening rural America.

An American has not led FAO in more than seventy years, even as the United States remains its largest financial contributor. A strong American Director-General can realign FAO in ways that better reflect U.S. interests, such as focusing FAO's core functions to serve the 21st century needs of the agricultural sector. Realigning FAO's strategic focus will ensure that American producers can compete on a fair and level global playing field. If the United States does not act, others with very different priorities will shape FAO's direction for years to come.

You have made clear that America's farmers are "the backbone of our country," and we deeply appreciate your commitment to ensuring they have the tools, markets, and policies needed to succeed. With U.S. agricultural exports valued at \$171 billion in 2025, we welcomed your recognition of FAO's value when it was not included in your January 7, 2026 Presidential Memorandum on withdrawal. With Beth at the helm, FAO becomes a practical tool for delivering results for rural America—opening markets for U.S. products and technology, advancing science-based policies, supporting plant and animal health, promoting food safety, and helping U.S. farmers compete more effectively in global markets.

Beth is not only the right U.S. candidate, she is the strongest candidate. In her current role as Deputy Director-General of FAO, she has earned the confidence of Members across all regions and is uniquely positioned to secure a decisive victory. Her experience also equips her to drive necessary bureaucratic reform with no learning curve. From day one, she will impose budget discipline, prioritize efficiency and cost control, demand accountability to Member States, and shift FAO's focus from endless planning to measurable delivery. Beth's election would open a new chapter at FAO moving from ideology and bureaucratic bloat to transparency, accountability, and results.

Your decision to support Beth as Deputy Director-General during your first term was wise and effective. Raised on a seven-generation farm in rural Indiana, Beth brings a farmer's insistence on

practicality and accountability. She began her career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President George W. Bush and has consistently championed farmers, science, innovation, and modern agricultural systems. Her record at FAO confirms that she delivers outcomes, rejects empty rhetoric, and is prepared to lead the organization.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations endorse Beth's candidacy in the strongest possible terms and stand ready to mobilize our international networks to support her. We respectfully request that you designate her as the official U.S. candidate and direct coordinated Cabinet-level engagement, supported by the full weight of U.S. diplomatic and political resources, to secure her election. Backing a strong American candidate for FAO Director-General advances your America First agenda by restoring U.S. leadership, delivering for rural America, and securing a lasting legacy in global agriculture that strengthens our economic prosperity, national security, and long-term stability.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Almond Alliance
American Beverage Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Mushroom Institute
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
American Spice Trade Association
Animal Health Institute
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Beck's Superior Hybrids
Blue Diamond Growers
California Citrus Quality Council
California Walnut Commission
Calorie Control Council
Corn Refiners Association
Corteva Agriscience
Council of Producers & Distributors of
Agrotechnology (CPDA)
CropLife America
Demeter Lp
Edible Oil Producers Association
Elanco
FieldWatch
Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association
of the United States
Food and Agricultural Export Association
Food and Agriculture Export Alliance

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Global Farmer Network
Halderman Farm Management Service, Inc.
Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc.
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Indiana Corn Growers
Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.
Indiana Pork Producers Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance, Inc.
International Council of Beverages
Associations
International Dairy Foods Association
International Food Additives Council
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa State Dairy Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Keystone Cooperative
L&M Glick Seed
Meat Institute
Milk Producers Council
Mississippi Farm Bureau
Missouri Agribusiness Association
National Alliance of Independent Crop
Consultants
National Association of State Departments of
Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Fisheries Institute
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
Northeast Dairy Producers Association
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Pet Food Institute
Premier Companies

Schulze Dairy LLC
Southern Crop Production Association
Strategic Digital Communications
Sweetener Users Association
Texas Seed Trade Association
The Agricultural Alumni Seed Improvement Association, Inc.
The Center for Dairy Excellence
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council
U.S. Meat Export Federation
U.S. Soybean Export Council
U.S. Wheat Associates
United Animal Health
US Dry Bean Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice
Wine Institute
World Brewing Alliance

cc:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative