

January 27, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

The undersigned organizations encourage the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the full Senate to swiftly confirm the Honorable Thomas Vilsack as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Collectively, our organizations are engaged in the management of pests that are harmful to our nation's public health, infrastructure, natural resources, and green spaces. The products that our members make or use control mosquitoes, ticks, and rodents that carry disease; protect our nation's public utilities, rights-of-way, and infrastructure from invasive weeds; manage overgrowth and vegetation that pose fire hazards; and maintain homes, greenspaces, parks, sports fields, and golf courses. In addition to providing safe places to enjoy, well maintained green spaces filter ground water and sequester carbon dioxide.

USDA plays a critical role in the management of invasive species and wildfires, as well as promoting stewardship and land conservation practices. Further, the Department's Office of Pest Management Policy develops and coordinates USDA policy on pesticides and integrated pest management, which are of vital importance to our associations and members.

We support the nomination of Secretary Vilsack not just because of his previous eight-year service in the post during the Obama Administration, but because of his commitment to conservation and protecting our natural resources. Further, the prompt confirmation of Secretary Vilsack to once again lead USDA will allow the Department to continue its vital mission without interruption. We respectfully encourage the Committee and the full Senate to swiftly confirm him.

Sincerely,

AmericanHort
American Mosquito Control Association
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
CPDA – Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology
Forest Resources Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Pest Management Association
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
Tree Care Industry Association