

February 2, 2021

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

Dear Chairman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the U.S. equipment manufacturing industry and the companies that make up the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, we respectfully urge the confirmation of the Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack to serve as United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Equipment manufacturers are proud to support 2.8 million family-sustaining jobs – one in eight manufacturing jobs in the United States – that contribute \$288 billion to the nation's GDP and play a critical role in production agriculture and the strength of rural America.

We have always valued Secretary Vilsack's strong focus on collaboration and partnership with the private sector, and are confident in his ability to provide strong leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management. His commitment to opening new markets for U.S. growers as well as efforts to promote the benefits of precision agriculture make him a great choice to lead the Department of Agriculture. We are confident that he understands the close ties between rural America and manufacturing, and the essential role that equipment manufacturers play in building, powering, and feeding the world.

Please feel free to call on us to expand upon our support for the nomination of Secretary Vilsack. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry