April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C.  20250

The Honorable Jovita Carranza  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
403 3rd Street SW  
Washington, D.C.  20416

Dear Secretary Perdue and Administrator Carranza:

Thank you for your leadership and action in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We certainly appreciate your efforts to ensure that the agriculture sector has access to the tools that are needed to weather the economic downturn America is experiencing.

We are especially grateful to have received confirmation today that farmer cooperatives will be able to participate in the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) contained in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES; P.L. 116-136). The PPP will help provide the financing to enable farmer cooperatives to keep employees on their payroll so they can continue to provide critical services to the U.S. agriculture sector and food products to consumers.

We recognize the immense challenges that SBA and USDA face during these unprecedented times and appreciate the work you and your staff are doing on behalf of our country.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Conner  
President & CEO