

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