

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair, Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 1, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

As the Senate Agriculture Committee prepares to begin consideration of the nomination of Tom Vilsack to be the next Secretary of Agriculture, the undersigned hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation organizations, representing America's 40 million hunters and anglers offer our support for his swift consideration by the Senate Agriculture Committee and confirmation on the Senate floor.

Thanks to his leadership of the USDA from 2009-2017, Mr. Vilsack understands the unique combination of private and public land conservation for which the Department of Agriculture is responsible. Across the country, on the forests of the Southeast, the grasslands of the Central Plains, the rangelands of the Intermountain West, the wetlands of the prairie potholes, and millions of acres in between, both public and private lands conservation are critical to the future of hunting and angling, and our shared fish and wildlife resources.

Mr. Vilsack will lead a USDA where there is certainly much to be done, including: the energetic implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill's Conservation Title programs and preparations for the 2023 Farm Bill, the full and comprehensive enactment of the fire funding solution, strong implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, aggressive action to control the continued spread of Chronic Wasting Disease, efforts to conserve big game migration corridors, the restoration of our nation's forest health, enhancing recreational access, and utilizing our natural landscapes to address climate change.

We are confident, given his track record, that Mr. Vilsack has the experience and the temperament to work towards solutions on these and a variety of other critical topics. Our community looks forward to working closely with Secretary-designate Vilsack and the rest of the USDA leadership team and urge your support for the Honorable Thomas Vilsack to be the Secretary of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
American Woodcock Society
Angler Action Foundation
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Bear Trust International
Boone and Crockett Club
California Waterfowl Association
Camp Fire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force

Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Fly Fishers International
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Masters of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Sportsmen's Alliance
Student Conservation Association
The Conservation Fund
The Trust for Public Land
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Mississippi
Wild Sheep Foundation