



July 8, 2025

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: United States Department of Agriculture's National Farm Security
Action Plan

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf the America First Policy Institute's State Departments of Agriculture Council, we are writing to express strong support for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Farm Security Action Plan (Plan).

American farmland is a strategic asset. It sustains our food supply, powers our rural economies, and contributes directly to the health and sovereignty of our nation. In recent years, increasing foreign interest in American farmland has raised serious concerns about the long-term security of our food systems and the potential for geopolitical leverage over vital resources. This is especially true in regions where foreign entities have purchased land near military installations or key infrastructure. The USDA's efforts to monitor, regulate, and safeguard agricultural land ownership align with broader national security goals. From ensuring food independence to maintaining control over water access and agricultural technologies, this policy is not just prudent—it is essential.

Protecting America's agricultural land and supply chains from foreign control, environmental degradation, and industrial encroachment is not only a matter of economic stability—it is a critical element of our national resilience. The Department's recently released Plan to ensure farm and national security go hand in hand is a pivotal step in the right direction.

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First and foremost, the Plan secures and protects American farmland by both modernizing and tightening requirements and ramping up USDA enforcement of the Agricultural Foreign Investment and Disclosure Act (AFIDA) on foreign investors. Specifically, the Plan enhances civil penalties imposed by USDA for those failing to report in accordance with the law or those knowingly submitting false information in a report. Additionally, the plan will promote agricultural and economic prosperity by identifying supply chain gaps and security vulnerabilities, including working with other Departments ensure inputs to U.S. agriculture currently sourced from other countries are adequately protected and listed as critical.

The Plan will evaluate all USDA programs, including rural development, research, and nutrition programs, to ensure they put America First. The Plan will also safeguard plant and animal health and protect critical infrastructure from invasive species, foreign animal diseases, and pathogens—all of which pose a serious risk to the resiliency of American agriculture. Finally, the Plan will actively promote increased consumption of U.S. agricultural goods at home and abroad, something we as State Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture go to work and do every day.

We applaud your and USDA's leadership in working across federal, state, and local levels to identify vulnerabilities and implement protective measures. The USDA is a load-bearing wall in our national security enterprise, serving as a bridge to the intelligence community and other relevant agencies, coordinating efforts to protect the food and agriculture sector and secure the resilience of the food and agriculture sector, including its infrastructure and key resources. We also encourage continued transparency and cooperation with stakeholders—including farmers, ranchers, and tribal communities—to preserve the integrity and productivity of our nation's farmland for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening American agriculture and protecting the backbone of our national security.

Sincerely,



Wes Ward
Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture



Tyler Harper
Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture



Chanel Tewalt
Idaho Director of Agriculture



Don Lamb
Indiana Director of Agriculture

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Mike Naig
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture



Jonathan Shell
Kentucky Commissioner of
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Charlie Hatcher, DVM
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Sid Miller
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture