

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2019

Secretary Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20252

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We understand there are plans underway to possibly relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to outside of Washington, D.C. Should USDA move forward with its plans, we ask that you give our great state of North Carolina your full consideration.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of North Carolina's economy, comprising our state's industry with an economic impact of \$87 billion and supporting 686,200 jobs across the state. North Carolina's diverse topography coupled with its year-round temperate climate and rich soils have allowed North Carolina to become one of the most agriculturally diverse states in the nation, cultivating almost ninety different crops.

North Carolina's vibrant agriculture industry is also attributable to partnerships with our state's world-renown universities. North Carolina is home to two land grant universities, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T University. In addition, Duke University and the University of North at Carolina at Chapel Hill, two U.S. News and World Report top ranked universities, are centrally located within a twenty mile radius of North Carolina State University, and Raleigh-Durham International airport.

The Raleigh-Durham area has experienced tremendous growth over the last decade largely due to ample job opportunities, low-cost of living, and the overall high quality of life offered from the area's expanding recreational and cultural opportunities.

As representatives of North Carolina, we stand ready to assist you with providing any further information about our state's countless attributes, and we look forward to further discussions about North Carolina's resources, talent, and access that make it an exceptional candidate for ERS and NIFA's new home.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



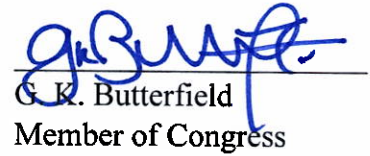
David E. Price
Member of Congress



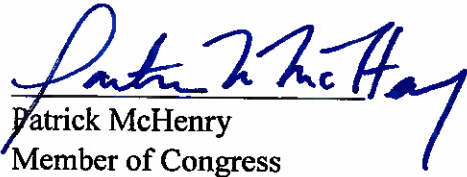
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



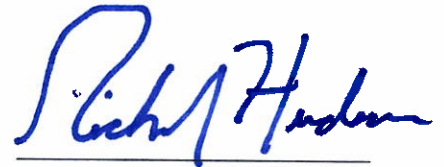
George Holding
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



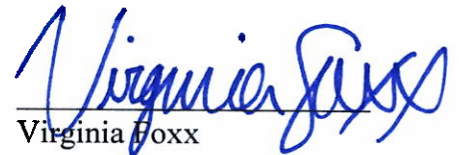
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress