



Wisconsin Corn Growers Association

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November 4, 2019

Senators Fitzgerald, Bernier, Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Craig, Darling, Erpenbach, Feyen, Hansen, Jacque, Johnson, Kapenga, Kooyenga, Larson, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Schachtner, Shilling, Smith, Stroebel, Taylor, Testin, Tiffany, Wanggaard and Wirch:

In February of this year, the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association (WCGA) stood united with other leading Wisconsin farm organizations in support of Brad Pfaff as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Nine months later, our position has not wavered.

In a joint letter, we wrote: *"Brad Pfaff grew up on a dairy farm in LaCrosse County and has worked in Agriculture Policy his entire adult life. He served in both DC and in Wisconsin as policy advisor for Senator Kohl and Congressman Kind. He also served as State Director for the Farm Services Agency.*

In all those roles, Pfaff has been a tireless advocate for farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Wisconsin. He also has a deep understanding of the wide variety of commodities and business operations that exists in Wisconsin and supports agriculture of all sizes and scales."

As I'm sure you are aware, Wisconsin's agriculture industry is one of the leading economic drivers of our state, contributing \$104.8 billion annually, along with 11.8 percent of the state's employment. Every job in agriculture supports an additional 1.46 jobs elsewhere in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's farmers – while providing so much to this great state – are struggling. Here at WCGA, we call it the "perfect storm". On a federal level, the future of USMCA remains uncertain and the use of ethanol-blended fuels is still jeopardized by RFS waivers. Our growers are dealing with increased tariffs, low commodity prices and a combination of surprises from Mother Nature, including a wet Spring and what appears to be an early winter.

Our members need stability and continuity. They need someone to speak on their behalf, to work on their behalf and to put it simply: someone to care. Brad Pfaff is that person.

Our Board of Directors understands your concerns and would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss them further.

We respectfully request that you delay the vote on Secretary-Designee Pfaff's confirmation so that we may meet with you and share in this crucial conversation.

Please give us time to show you why his successful confirmation is critical to the success – and in some cases survival – of Wisconsin's agricultural producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Rebut'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'D' and a prominent horizontal stroke.

Doug Rebut
WCGA President