



May 15, 2019

United States Department of Agriculture
Attn: Secretary Sonny Perdue
1280 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Perdue:

It is with great honor that we submit a joint letter of support for the Kansas City area to be chosen as the future home of the USDA Economic Research Service and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. As Governors of two states whose economies are deeply linked to both production agriculture and food processing we are thrilled that USDA leadership has proposed the relocation of these two critical agencies. The Midwestern community, and the rural communities that support its future, presents a complete package for USDA and its employees moving forward.

The diversity of agriculture in Kansas and Missouri is nearly unrivaled. Our commodity-based crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, rice, cotton and soybeans are an engine of America's agricultural economy. We also produce fruit and other specialty crops in increasing volume and variety to meet the growing demands by consumers for locally-grown products.

It's no secret that both Missouri and Kansas take livestock production seriously – consistently ranking among the top states for production of cattle, hogs, turkeys and chickens. Because of that, more than 300 animal health companies have chosen the Kansas City area as their home, making them a part of the Animal Health Corridor, which represents the largest concentration of animal health companies in the world. With direct access to this diverse agriculture field, critical mass of forward-thinking agriculture technology companies and great living conditions for employees, it's clear that the Kansas City area should be the future home of USDA-ERS and USDA-NIFA.

Missouri and Kansas are home to the Risk Management Agency Headquarters, Farm Service Agency Operations Office, National Agricultural Statistics Service Operations Division, the Agriculture Marketing Service Offices and soon to be home to the new National Agro-Biodefense Facility. By choosing locations close to their farmer-constituent base, each of these USDA offices remains rooted in agriculture and, as a result, are better able to make decisions that serve American agriculture well, as well as domestic and foreign customers who depend on a safe, secure food supply.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are excited to have even more USDA employees call the Midwest home.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Michael L. Parson, Governor of Missouri.

Michael L. Parson
Governor of Missouri

A blue ink signature of Laura Kelly, Governor of Kansas.

Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas