

SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

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January 25, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition & Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts & Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of the Sweetener Users Association, I write to respectfully urge the favorable consideration of former Governor Sonny Perdue's nomination as Secretary of Agriculture. Gov. Perdue is eminently qualified by his background and life experiences for this critically important position.

Georgia was named the "Best Managed State in America" at the end of Governor Perdue's term. Raised on a diversified farm, he has had first-hand experience with America's highly productive farm sector. As the founder of three agribusinesses, he is acquainted with the realities of executing a plan, meeting a payroll and making investment decisions. Governor Perdue understands the critical role that our nation's farm and food sector plays in feeding not only our own people but hundreds of millions of others throughout the world.

The Sweetener Users Association comprises companies that are directly affected by many policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including USDA's administration of the federal sugar program. While we have often been critical of the structure of current sugar policy, we have also worked closely with USDA officials to encourage program administration that is balanced toward growers, refiners, users and other stakeholders.

Toward that end, it is important that the Secretary of Agriculture have a breadth of experience that permits him or her to take into account the needs of all affected groups, without unduly favoring one sector over another. We believe Governor Perdue's background and experience equip him to provide such leadership, and again encourage your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Emily Russell
Chairwoman