



November 9, 2020

The Honorable Stephen Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
201 14th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20227

Dear Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky,

As businesses working to solve climate change through our own practices and by driving science-based U.S. policy action, Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA) founding members Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA and Unilever United States appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Innovation Agenda.

Food companies like ours, the farmers who grow our ingredients, and consumers who buy our products sit at the cross section of communities most impacted by climate change, which poses an existential threat to all living things. We believe the food and agriculture value chain also holds potential solutions to our share of the global climate challenge, and our country should be leading the way in environmental and sustainable agricultural practices.

As we have previously [noted](#), USDA's Agriculture Innovation Agenda is an important step, but it must be backed by ambitious, innovative and actionable policy, married with incentives and tools that solve barriers to entry and empower long-term changes that will cut greenhouse gas emissions while creating value for businesses, including farms and ranches.

While USDA's Request for Information asks for comment specifically on innovative technologies and practices that can be readily deployed, SFPA is taking this opportunity to reiterate the key [policy principles](#) that, in our view, will support the broad deployment of those technologies and practices and achieve the goals of USDA's Agriculture Innovation Agenda, including:

- **Carbon Pricing System:** Establish an ambitious carbon pricing system that sends a clear signal to the marketplace to reduce economy-wide GHG emissions aligned with the Paris Agreement goal to keep global temperature increase well below 2°C. An appropriate carbon pricing structure should be transparent in how prices are set, equitable in how revenue is appropriated to mitigate costs on the most vulnerable communities, and built to ensure our global competitiveness.
- **Clean Energy Deployment:** Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote innovation at the federal and state levels to develop more sustainable energy sources.
- **Agriculture & Forestry:** Include the land sector, via agriculture and forestry, as part of an incentives-based strategy to reduce emissions and sequester GHGs from the atmosphere to meet global and national targets. Additional strategies should consider how to leverage resources and technical assistance for the myriad of landowners who are already contributing vital solutions.



- **Infrastructure:** Invest in the broad spectrum of infrastructure solutions needed to be more resilient against the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, and sequester more GHGs from the atmosphere.
- **Promote Equity:** Invest in American workers and in disadvantaged communities that have fewer resources to manage the costs of climate change, including rising energy costs as a result of policy changes.
- **Predictable & Consistent Regulation:** Ensure an economy-wide federal regulatory approach with a suite of complementary policies that work together to reduce domestic emissions.

Climate change is not a partisan challenge and addressing it will require all people and all sectors of society to engage on solutions that match its magnitude. SFPA stands ready to work with USDA, Congress, the Administration, and all stakeholders to drive scalable solutions to this shared threat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philippe Caradec".

Phillipe Caradec
VP Public and Government Affairs
Federal and Industry Affairs
Danone North America, PBC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad G. Figel".

Brad G. Figel
Vice President
Public Affairs North America
Mars, Incorporated

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Fogarty".

Molly Fogarty
Senior Vice President
Corporate & Government Affairs, U.S.
Nestlé USA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Langan".

Tom Langan
North America Director
Sustainable Business & External Affairs
Unilever

