



September 4, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Purdue:

We write to you today as the unified leaders of trade organizations representing agricultural producers and manufacturers in the beverage alcohol supply chain to request a meeting to discuss the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Committee's (DGAC) Scientific Report, specifically the confusion surrounding suggested changes to the moderate consumption guidelines for alcohol.

America's alcohol industry is a critical partner to our nation's farmers, supporting more than 38,000 agricultural jobs which pour almost \$5 billion into our nation's economy. The alcohol industry supports agricultural jobs in every state. The primary ingredients of beer, wine and distilled spirits includes water, yeast, hops, grapes and fermentable grains—including barley, corn, rice, rye, wheat, oats, sorghum, and spelt.

The DGAC Scientific Report includes a recommendation, dependent on research out of scope for the systematic review, to change the federal government's longstanding guidance on moderate consumption of alcohol. The Report recommends your agency should reduce the daily guideline for men from up to two drinks per day to up to one drink per day. USDA and HHS should question why this suggested change deviates from decades of clear science and sound public policy.

We support sound science-based nutrition policy for Americans and believe the DGAC Scientific Report's suggested change to the consumption guidance for men is misleading and confusing to consumers, and ultimately harmful to American agricultural producers.

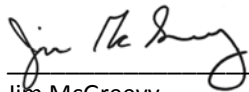
The alcohol industry generates hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity each year and supports American farmers and agricultural producers. Barley, corn, wheat, rice, grape, grain and hop farmers rely on America's alcohol producers, and industries like dairy farmers depend on our nutritious spent grains for livestock feed.

You know firsthand that as our nation continues to cope with a global pandemic, the pressure on American farmers and the supply chain to sustain more than 320 million Americans, and millions of others around the globe is at an all-time high. This suggested change in the Dietary Guidelines, which is grounded in a precautionary principle rather than peer-reviewed science, will have a deleterious impact on rural communities and the millions of agriculture jobs supported by the beverage alcohol industry.

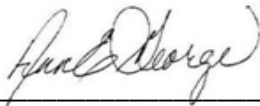
We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you and discuss our point of view as the USDA and HHS draft the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to hearing from you.

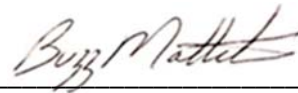
Sincerely,



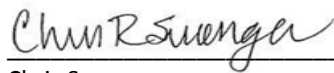
Jim McGreevy
President & CEO
Beer Institute




Ann E. George
Executive Director
USA Hops



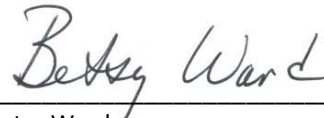
Milo "Buzz" Mattelin
President
National Barley Growers Association



Chris Swonger
President & CEO
Distilled Spirits Council



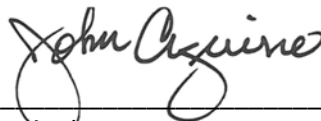
Robert "Bobby" Koch
President & CEO
Wine Institute



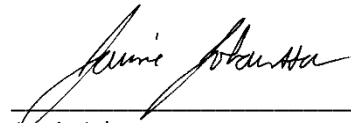
Betsy Ward
President & CEO
USA Rice



Vicky Scharlau
Executive Director
Washington Winegrowers
Association



John Aguirre
President
California Association of Winegrape
Growers



Jamie Johansson
President
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Jeff Bitter
President
Allied Grape Growers