

October 16, 2020

The Honorable A. Mitchell McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
sharon_soderstrom@mcconnell.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
richard_perry@lgraham.senate.gov

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
mike_lynch@schumer.senate.gov

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
david_grannis@feinstein.senate.gov

Re: Support for the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Graham, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As Commissioners of Agriculture and as farmers, ranchers, growers and fishers, we applaud and strongly support President Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States, and we urge the Senate to confirm her appointment as an Associate Justice.

Judge Barrett is by far the most distinguished and qualified candidate for the highest court in the land. She has the strongest support among the legal conservatives who have dedicated their lives to the law. As a strong conservative and constitutional originalist, who believes in applying the text and laws as written, she will contribute greatly to the court's jurisprudence in the years and decades to come and will help guide America back to the ideals envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

In our democracy, a co-equal branch of government which is fundamental in the separation and balance of powers, the Supreme Court was clearly not created or designed to be an extension

of the legislative branch. As Judge Barrett stated during the President's announcement of her nomination, "A judge must apply the law as written. Judges are not policymakers, and they must be resolute in setting aside any policy views they might hold."

As statewide elected leaders, we support a judicial philosophy like Judge Barrett's that respects the roles of co-equal branches of government and protects powers reserved to the states.

It is often said that one of the greatest enduring legacies of any president is who they choose for the Supreme Court of the United States. President Trump could not have chosen a better Justice for this critical time in America.

The President's term of office does not end until January 20, 2021 at noon on the swearing in for the next term of office. Until that time, it is incumbent on the President to faithfully fulfill all duties incumbent upon him, which includes the nomination of a new associate justice to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Further, history shows that since 1900, six justices have been confirmed during an election.

The Federalist Papers No. 71 (1788) states: "The republican principle demands that the deliberate sense of the community should govern the conduct of those to whom they intrust the management of their affairs, but it does not require an unqualified complaisance to every sudden breeze of passion, or to every transient impulse which the people may receive from the arts of men, who flatter their prejudices to betray their interests."

It is clearly in order, with precedent, and altogether proper to promptly confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett as Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court. We urge you to do so without delay.

Sincerely,



Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry



Rick Pate
Commissioner
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries



Gary Black
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Agriculture & Commerce



Kent Leonhardt
Commissioner
West Virginia Department of Agriculture



Ryan Quarles
Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Agriculture



Andy Gipson
Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce



Steve Troxler
Commissioner
North Carolina Department of Agriculture



Doug Goehring
Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture



Hugh Weathers
Commissioner
South Carolina Department of Agriculture



Sid Miller
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture