Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington D.C., 20201

The Honorable Brooke Rollins Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave SW Washington D.C., 20250

The Honorable Lee Zeldin Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington D.C., 20004

Dear Secretary Kennedy, Secretary Rollins, and Administrator Zeldin:

We write to express our strong appreciation for your leadership and interest in working with each of you to ensure America has the healthiest people in the world. In recent decades, chronic illness rates have risen. This warrants our careful scrutiny to support better health outcomes. It is essential that policies supported by sound science and risk-based analyses are used to accomplish this goal.

We also urge you to safeguard the work of the Make America Healthy Again Commission (Commission) from activist groups promoting misguided and sometimes even malicious policies masquerading as health solutions. The influence of these groups in the Commission would result in shoddy science; a less abundant, less affordable food supply; greater reliance on foreign adversaries for our food; diminished U.S. agricultural production and manufacturing; and, ultimately, poorer health outcomes.

President Trump recently stated environmental activists were holding the economic prosperity of our country hostage. We now have concerns that they are seeking to influence the work of the Commission to advance their agenda. For decades activist groups have tried to ban safe, well-

¹ Center for Biological Diversity. February 18, 2025. *A Petition to Make America Healthy Again*. https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/environmental_health/pdfs/FINAL-MAHA-Petition-2.18.25.pdf

regulated agricultural inputs by any means necessary. Without these products, yields and quality are negatively impacted by otherwise avoidable insects, fungus, weeds, and other pest pressures. This drives up food prices for American consumers and forces reliance of food imports.

The same groups have seized upon the Commission's work as an opportunity to misrepresent the science on common food and feed categories or ingredients, such as plant-based oils. These inputs are subject to a robust, risk-based regulatory system which focuses on protecting human health. Unfounded accusations harm the U.S. farmers who grow our food, upend food and feed supply chains, and significantly increase grocery food prices – all without public health benefit.

We have concerns that environmentalists are advancing harmful health, economic, or food security policies under the guise of human health. Despite insinuations to the contrary, regular testing by FDA and USDA finds that more than 99% of all pesticide residues meet extremely conservative limits established by EPA according to the best available science.

We applaud the Commission's desire to improve the health and well-being of Americans. We implore you to ensure policy decisions are grounded in sound science and risk-based analyses. With unity, we can protect American agricultural producers from environmental activists' attacks on proven-safe inputs critical to their profitability and long-term viability while promoting positive health outcomes.

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts

United States Senator

Deb Fischer

United States Senator

Randy Feenstra

Member of Congress

Mark Alford

Member of Congress

Joni K. Ernst

nited States Senator

James C. Justice

United States Senator

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Gabe Evans
Member of Congress

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Dusty Johnson

Dusty Johnson Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Fleischmann
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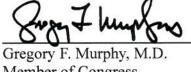
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