

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250



Dear Secretary Rollins,

The Izaak Walton League of America was established in 1922 by hunters and anglers to conserve and restore our nation's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife. Today, more than 40,000 members and 200 chapters across the country sustain our mission.

We recognize the U.S. Department of Agriculture's unique and critical role in protecting our natural resources by assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners in implementing conservation on their operations. Ultimately, these are investments by the U.S. taxpayer. Healthier soils, cleaner water and improved wildlife habitat benefit all Americans and are the returns taxpayers expect for that investment.

In your efforts to reorganize the Department, we urge you to ensure that delivering robust technical and financial assistance for conservation is a top priority. Specifically, we encourage you to consider the following:

1. Producers rely on federal conservation programs for their operations' success. Program enrollments, reimbursements, and technical assistance should not be interrupted or delayed due to reorganization.
2. As part of the reconciliation process, Congress invested additional resources in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's most popular programs. Staff capacity in local offices should match the upcoming increased workload to ensure successful implementation.
3. Farmers, ranchers and landowners are the most important stakeholders in the Department's daily operations. We encourage you to organize listening sessions or other opportunities for producers to share feedback on their experiences with USDA and the reorganization plan.
4. The Census of Agriculture provides critical information on U.S. agriculture. Please consider how restructuring the National Agricultural Statistics Service may impact the Department's effectiveness at collecting this data in 2027.
5. Department staff are hardworking and often highly specialized in their expertise. Out of respect for their knowledge and tenure, we urge you to provide staff with flexibility and resources throughout the upcoming transition.

Ultimately, reorganization and restructuring should not interrupt the Department's important work to provide support to farmers, ranchers and landowners in stewarding our natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Hansen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Hansen
Agriculture Program Director, Izaak Walton League of America