

Vickie R. Myers
Executive Director
vickie@sugaralliance.org

Rob Johansson, Ph.D.
Director of Economics
and Policy Analysis
rob@sugaralliance.org



Backing America's Beet and Cane Farmers

2111 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel: 703-351-5055
Fax: 703-351-6698
sugaralliance.org

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of America's sugarbeet and sugarcane family farmers, workers, processors and refiners, we are writing to express our deep support for the nomination of Alexis Taylor to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Director Taylor is an outstanding choice to advocate for American agriculture at a time when experience with agricultural trade, national security, and Washington D.C. are invaluable.

Throughout her career, spanning from the U.S. Army to USDA to Director of Agriculture in Oregon, Director Taylor has put service to our nation first. She brings to USDA unparalleled expertise, deft leadership, and a comprehensive understanding of the issues driving American agriculture and trade. Director Taylor is well-positioned to step forward and deliver for America's family farmers on day one.

As you know, America is the world's third largest importer of sugar. However, the highly subsidized and volatile nature of the global sugar market poses a threat to the family farmers and skilled workers who produce America's sugar and keep our nation supplied with this essential ingredient. Thanks to Director Taylor's policymaking and legislative experience, she already understands the issues affecting our industry and we are confident she will contribute greatly to USDA's dedicated work of ensuring that our trade policies are fair and reflective of the world's trading realities.

For those reasons, we urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly consider and confirm Director Taylor as Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Affairs. In our current uncertain global climate, having an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs as qualified and knowledgeable as Taylor will be invaluable to all of American agriculture.

Sincerely,
Executive Committee
American Sugar Alliance

Cassie Bladow
President
United States Beet Sugar Association

Jack Pettus
Vice President of Government Relations
American Sugar Cane League

Luther Markwart
Executive Vice President
American Sugarbeet Growers Association

Ryan Weston
Chief Executive Officer, Florida Sugar Cane League;
Washington Representative, Rio Grande Valley
Sugar Growers

CC: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR)