June 13, 2025

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

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

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary Kennedy, Secretary Rollins, and Administrator Zeldin,

As organizations representing millions of farmers, ranchers, food producers, and ingredient manufacturers, we write to urge you to ensure food and agriculture have a seat at the table during the development of policy recommendations related to the recent Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission report, as well as any future Commission activities. The process by which the Commission's most recent report was created lacked transparency and any opportunity for public engagement. As a result, the report contained numerous errors and distortions that have created unfounded fears about the safety of our food supply. While we appreciate recent outreach to some stakeholders in the food and agriculture sector, to genuinely provide the transparency and gold-standard science pledged in the report, we urge the administration to formally include farmers, ranchers, and food producers in a collaborative stakeholder process throughout all future work of the Commission. We also advise the administration to create the opportunity for public comment on all future reports and activities of the Commission.

America's farmers and food producers share the goal of healthy outcomes in our country and have been on a decades-long journey of continuous improvement. They have relied on technology and innovation to provide a safer, more abundant and affordable supply of food and agricultural goods. Since the 1940s, U.S. agricultural output has tripled to feed and supply our growing population, while decreasing the total use of labor, land, and inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides.[1] These same innovations have allowed for significant increases of soil health practices, such as reduced tillage and an increase in cover crops.[2] They also have allowed us to produce more food without converting environmentally-sensitive lands, like forests or prairies, into cropland. These innovations and others have made the U.S. food and agriculture system the envy of the world.

Despite these successes, the MAHA Commission report paints a very different, inaccurate story about American agriculture and our food system. The stakes are high going forward. The unintended consequences of making uninformed decisions for U.S. food production based on misinformation or unproven theories would be sweeping for our nation's farmers. It would lead to U.S. producers increasingly falling behind our global competitors, making our country more reliant on foreign imports for our food supply. Further, America's families would see food prices rise amid promises of a return to affordability. We also have concerns that by raising unfounded fears about the safety of our food supply, the report may have the

[1] U.S. Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Service. Updated March 12, 2025. *Farming and Farm Income.* https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/farming-and-farm-income

[2] National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. September 13, 2024. "Promising Conservation Results in the 2022 Agricultural Census." *NSAC's Blog*. https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/promising-conservation-results-in-the-2022-agricultural-census/

unintended effect of discouraging consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables contrary to the goals of the Commission.[3]

Since the release of the report, it has been discovered many of the studies referenced to support erroneous claims significantly misrepresented their findings or in some cases are entirely nonexistent.[4] In other instances, the report relies on a few select pieces of poor evidence and opinion articles to justify false claims, ignoring vast volumes of scientific evidence to the contrary.[5] Many of our organizations previously sent a letter to the MAHA Commission warning of this very outcome, which we believe is a consequence of the process by which the report was created.[6] Since its inception, the MAHA Commission has operated without meaningful input from food and agricultural stakeholders. In a letter, Congress expressed its own concerns that this process could be abused by activist groups seeking to advance their own longstanding anti-agriculture agendas—concerns potentially validated following the rollout of the report.[7]

The MAHA Commission would benefit from inviting public comment and formally including representatives from food and agriculture in any future reports. Greater transparency would prevent future misrepresentations based on poor or nonexistent sources. Grower and food production experts who work daily in food and agriculture would be a resource to corroborate claims or ideas. Also, because no one person or organization has all the answers to health ailments affecting our population, allowing greater input via public comment would provide the Commission with new ideas and potentially new evidence to improve public health.

America's farmers and food producers eagerly share in the goal of making our population healthier. However, we are greatly troubled by the work of the MAHA Commission to date, which risks unnecessarily eroding public trust in our food supply. Your leadership is greatly needed to correct the Commission's activities, as well as create processes for greater transparency and input. These actions will help the MAHA Commission to genuinely fulfill its mission of using gold-standard science to make all Americans healthier.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Alliance of North Carolina
Alabama Soybean & Corn Association
Alaska Farm Bureau
Almond Alliance
American Agri-Women
American Dairy Coalition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Horse Council

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[3] Huang, Yancui, Indika Edirisinghe, and Britt Burton-Freeman. September/October 2016. "Low-Income Shoppers and Fruit and Vegetables What Do They Think?" *Nutrition Today*. Vol. 51, Iss. 5. P. 242-250, https://shorturl.at/T1cvW

[4] Kennard, Emily and Margaret Manto. May 29, 2025. "The MAHA Report Cites Studies That Don't Exist." *NOTUS*. https://www.notus.org/health-science/make-america-healthy-again-report-citation-errors

[5] Noha, Dulby. May 30, 2025. "The MAHA Report Cites a Paper Criticized as 'Junk Science' on Pesticides." *NOTUS*. https://www.notus.org/health-science/maha-report-citations-agriculture-pesticides-dyes

[6] Agribusiness Association of Iowa, et al. March 7, 2025. *Food and Agriculture Stakeholder Letter to MAHA Commission*. https://soygrowers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/3.10.25-MAHA-Commission-Letter.pdf

[7] Ricketts, Pete, et al. April 11, 2025. *Letter from Congress to MAHA Commission*. https://www.ricketts.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/25.04.11.-MAHA-Commission-Integrity-FINAL.pdf

American Mushroom Institute
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
AmericanHort
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Certified Crop Advisers
Arkansas Crop Protection Association
Arkansas Soybean Association
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries
Burley & Dark Tobacco Producer Association
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Citrus Quality Council
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
California League of Food Producers
California Pork Producers Association
California Specialty Crops Council
California Tomato Growers Association
California Wild Rice Advisory Board
Calorie Control Council
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
Corn Refiners Association
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA)
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Delaware Farm Bureau
Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association
Delta Council
Empire State Potato Growers
Far West Agribusiness Association
Farm Credit Council
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Green Industry Association, Inc.

Georgia Urban Ag Council
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Mint Growers Association
Idaho Oilseed Commission
Idaho Onion Growers' Association
Idaho Oregon Seed Pesticide Council
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Illinois Soybean Growers
Independent Bakers Association
Independent Professional Seed Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership & Policy Committee
International Food Additives Council
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Cotton Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Kentucky Horticulture Council
Kentucky Livestock Coalition
Kentucky Pork Producers
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office
Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association
Kentucky Soybean Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Malheur County Onion Growers Association
Maryland Farm Bureau
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau

Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Mid Atlantic Soybean Association
Midwest Council on Agriculture
Midwest Food Products Association
Midwest Forage Association
Minnesota AgriGrowth
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
Minnesota Canola Council
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mint Industry Research Council
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Modern Ag Alliance
Montana Agricultural Business Association
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Grain Growers Association
Montana Pork Producers Council
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Christmas Tree Association
National Citrus Nursery Association (NCNA)
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA)
National Onion Association
National Sunflower Association
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Dry Pea & Lentil Commission
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York State Flower Industries

Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Grange
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Central Weed Science Society
North Dakota Agricultural Association
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Dry Pea & Lentil Council
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance
Northeast Dairy Producers Association
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Northern Canola Growers Association
Northern Pulse Growers Association
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Olive Growers Council of California
Olive Oil Commission California
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Seed Council
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregonians for Food & Shelter
Pacific Northwest Canola Association
Pennsylania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association
Soil Science Society of America
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Soybean Association
Southern Crop Production Association
Southern Kansas Cotton Growers Coop
Southern Weed Science Society
Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance

Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Corn Producers Association
Texas Grain & Feed Association
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Soybean Association
Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Vegetation Management Association
Texas Wheat Producers Association
The Center for Ag Research at Washington Policy Center
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Durum Growers Association
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Utah Pork Producers Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Soybean Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
Washington Mint Growers Association
Washington State Dairy Federation
Weed Science Society of America
Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western Society of Weed Science
Western Sugar Cooperative
Western Tree Nut Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Dairy Products Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Pork Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission