Mr. Andy LaVigne President, NCFAR & Chief Executive Officer, ASTA 1701 Duke Street | Suite 275 Alexandria, VA 22314

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Under Secretary Chavonda Jacobs-Young United States Department of Agriculture Jamie L. Whitten Building 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20250

Dear Under Secretary Jacobs-Young,

On behalf of NCFAR, we would like to offer our congratulations on your nomination and confirmation as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Your knowledge and experience will enable the United States research community to thrive and respond to the challenges facing the food and agricultural sector. We appreciate your prior leadership at USDA and know you will advance incredible work during your tenure. We look forward to working with you in your new role to enable climate solutions, unveil innovative ways to increase the production of safe and nutritious food, and assist our universities in expanding research facilities, allowing for the next generation of food and agricultural advancement.

Please know that you can count on our partnership. We look forward to working with you as we serve as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing federal investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education.

A most sincere congratulations to you, and all our best wishes from NCFAR.

Warm regards,

A.W. Zakju

Andy LaVigne

President, NCFAR & Chief Executive Officer, ASTA