

Congress of the United States

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

We write to express our support for Jenny Lester Moffitt, Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to be considered for an appointment within your Administration, specifically as Undersecretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) or Chief of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Jenny's demonstrated leadership and commitment to climate-smart agriculture, water quality, animal and plant health, specialty crop programs, marketing, trade, and building resilient and equitable food systems would bring invaluable experience to USDA. Her background in production agriculture and value added processing help her understand the realities faced by farmers, and she is someone that builds bridges and seeks consensus when solving complex and difficult problems.

One of the greatest problems facing our nation – and the planet – is climate change. As Undersecretary at CDFA, Jenny has helped invest almost \$1 billion dollars in climate-smart agriculture programs and has championed the role that agriculture can play in combating climate change. Notably, Jenny has ensured that farmers and ranchers have been part of the solution and she has built strong partnerships between multiple agencies, organizations, and stakeholder groups to build successful voluntary programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build soil health.

Raised on the family walnut farm she would later manage, Jenny's career has been dedicated to agriculture. She has experience with farmland conservation, sustainable agriculture, organic production, marketing specialty crops, renewable energy and implementing market-based and government-led solutions that work on family farms.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jenny's dedication and commitment has been steadfast. Her leadership has helped the food system adapt and has ensured that farmworkers have had access to PPE, testing, quarantine housing, and vaccinations. She has advocated for the needs of farmers and championed common-sense solutions to feeding healthy food to millions of Californians. Given the geographical and political diversity in California, this is no easy task! Jenny has faced each challenge head on, she has leaned in, and she has engaged directly with multiple stakeholders and local, state, and national leaders to get things done. She works collaboratively and inclusively, and she works to solve problems and find solutions.

Jenny Lester Moffitt represents a new generation of leaders who is dedicated to building a better future for all Americans. She is a champion of agriculture and someone who would bring diverse experience and leadership to USDA.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Jenny Lester Moffitt's potential appointment. We look forward to working with your administration on the issues facing our nation and the role U.S. agriculture can play in addressing them.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



JOSH HARDER
Member of Congress