

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Gary Washington
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Acting Secretary Washington,

We write to seek clarity and raise concerns regarding the impact of recent Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda on the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Over the past week, farmers, ranchers, schools, and state governments have contacted my office in search of clarity on programs, websites, offices, and activities impacted by these orders. Conflicting information from the administration has added to the uncertainty, costing those who depend on the Department time and money. The farmers, rural families, and businesses that depend on the Department need certainty to plan ahead for this growing season.

Has the Department paused or terminated any payments, or taken any other actions to carry out any Executive Orders or Presidential Memoranda issued on or after January 20, 2025? If so, please provide a description of the actions the Department has taken broken down by program, office, and activity, including listing any activities with paused or terminated disbursements or obligations, as well as the legal basis for pausing or terminating any funding that has been appropriated by Congress.

In addition, please provide a timeline of when recipients of paused or terminated disbursements can expect to hear from the Department about the status of their funding.

Please respond to this letter by Close of Business on Friday, February 7. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

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Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator