



November 29, 2016

Renee Picanso  
Associate Administrator  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 5041, South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-2255

Dear Ms. Picanso,

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is pleased to nominate Jeff Witte, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to serve on the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. Secretary Witte's experience in state government and as a producer make him uniquely qualified to represent the views and needs of both users and suppliers of agriculture statistics.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the state departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. State departments of agriculture are responsible for a wide range of programs including food safety, combating the spread of disease, and fostering the economic vitality of our rural communities. Since 1972, NASDA has partnered with NASS in providing timely, accurate and useful statistics to U.S. agriculture. Under our cooperative agreement, NASDA employs more than 3,000 enumerators across the country who collect agricultural data on behalf of NASS.

Secretary Witte serves as the Second Vice President on NASDA's Board of Directors and would bring valuable state and federal-level perspective and expertise to the committee. In his capacity as secretary Mr. Witte has a number of important responsibilities including working closely with a wide variety of stakeholders across his state and around the country on such matters as marketing food products, food safety, homeland security, natural resource conservation, and water quality. Further, Secretary Witte would provide a unique perspective on southwestern agriculture and agriculture producers, including Native American communities and producers. This knowledge could be particularly helpful ahead of the 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture.

NASDA appreciates your consideration of Secretary Witte's nomination for the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara P. Glenn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Barbara P. Glenn, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NASDA