



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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September 26, 2018

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Van Hollen, Cardin, Warner, and Kaine,

I write as president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to express appreciation for your recent letter to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue regarding the Department of Agriculture's proposal to relocate and realign the Economic Research Service and to relocate the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The ASA—the largest association of statisticians in the world, with more than 19,000 members—shares your concern that this proposal would be detrimental to evidence-based policymaking in the Department of Agriculture and, more broadly, to food, agriculture, and our rural economy.

On behalf of the ASA, please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of evidence-based agricultural policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa LaVange'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.