

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20150

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20150

February 9, 2017

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), a national sportsmen's conservation organization, offers our support for President Donald Trump's nomination of former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue for the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Perdue's background as a farmer, veterinarian, business owner, state legislator, and state executive plainly qualify him to lead the USDA, but we are especially pleased to support his nomination based on his record with land and water conservation, forest management, and outdoor recreation.

In Georgia and across the country, outdoor recreation powers an immense economic engine that employs millions of Americans and generates more than \$646 billion in spending each year, the majority of which powers rural communities. As an avid sportsman, Perdue understands that a balanced approach to private and public land management can simultaneously sustain and expand this valuable outdoor economy, protect our natural resources, and improve the productivity of America's farmland, ranchland, and forests. To that end, during his tenure as Governor, Perdue nurtured a culture of conservation: he implemented policies aimed at improving wildlife habitat and conserving water; created tax incentives for private land conservation; stimulated restoration of longleaf pine forests on public and private land; and opened tens of thousands of acres to hunting and fishing access statewide.

We are optimistic that Perdue will be a Secretary of Agriculture who balances the needs of production agriculture and National Forests with the needs of fish, wildlife, and sportsmen, while also supporting rural landowners and rural economies. Accordingly, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership urges you to support the confirmation of Former Governor Sonny Perdue for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whit Fosburgh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership