May 24, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and over 170 Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, Partner Organizations, and Individuals, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

The nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as USDA General Counsel is historic for several key reasons. As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Janie represents America’s first farmers. As a world-renowned food and agriculture legal mind with more than 35 years of experience, Janie’s legal experience and expertise in food and agriculture law is unparalleled. As an agricultural lawyer during the devastating farm financial crisis of the 1980s, Janie also has experience assisting ag and food producers through incredibly tough times, an essential need for public servants today as our country’s ag and food producers weather the economic and health crises brought on by the pandemic. Janie’s nomination is a strong statement that agriculture and Rural America must have people in the building at USDA who know what they are going through, and most importantly how to help during these very difficult times. Janie Hipp is exactly the right person at the right time, because difficult times call for extraordinary leadership.
Janie Hipp’s career and reputation are extraordinary. She has dedicated her entire legal career to working on behalf of Rural America and our food producers. It’s not only her passion, but it’s in her heart. Being from a small, rural southeastern Oklahoma town that was agriculture-dependent and infrastructure-poor, she planted her professional and home roots firmly in Arkansas while traveling the country and world to help farmers and ranchers. Whether speaking one-on-one with a producer, or speaking on a stage in front of thousands, she always brings the same passion and brilliance and speaks truth to power on behalf of agriculture and Rural America. Janie grew up there, lives there, and serves the people there.

In working alongside producers to solve the complex legal changes they face, Janie’s expertise spans the entirety of USDA’s programs and authority. She has extensive experience in food law and policy, trade, credit and finance, conservation, sustainable and regenerative ag, ag business, risk management, federal nutrition programs, research and education, and rural development to name a few. Janie is an encyclopedia of agricultural legal knowledge and directly connects the law to the histories and challenges our producers face with a specific eye on how it can be applied to make it better for the producer. Not only does Janie know the law, she knows its applications within USDA inside and out – just like a farmer knows their tractor – which is essential for General Counsel who has to look at the legal and program authorities across the entire agency.

Janie also has over seven years of experience working at USDA in various capacities, including serving as a national program leader for Farm Financial Management, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Risk Management Education, and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development programs at the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture. She was then tapped by Secretary Vilsack to work closely with him as Senior Advisor for Tribal Relations and Director of the Office of Tribal Relations during the Obama Administration. In a majority of these roles, Janie worked across programs and USDA agencies to create new connections to help farmers and ranchers. With her legal mind back at USDA as General Counsel, we believe that she will help Secretary Vilsack get the Department running better than ever during a time when we need USDA the most.

While Janie’s legal expertise is unmatched, so is her experience working on behalf of Rural America. Janie sat at kitchen tables to help producers during the farm financial crisis of the 1980s. Janie sat at conference tables across the country listening to Tribal leaders and state and local government officials looking to build strong agricultural economies. Janie sat at tables at USDA, the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the United Nations to guide lawmakers in tackling the most difficult issues facing America’s food producers at the national and international levels. In all of these spaces, Janie brings her unparalleled passion, heart, experience, and intelligence to make sure that agriculture and Rural America are represented, and that everyone has a seat at the table and voice in the effort.

We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current
Letter from 177 Tribes, Organizations, & Individuals
Support for Janie Simms Hipp USDA General Counsel Nomination
May 24, 2021

barriers facing our country’s food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA’s Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,

A Well-Fed World
Acoma Pueblo
Airfresh Seafoods
Akiptan, Inc
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Oxnard, Ca
American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3354 (AFL-CIO)
American Indian Mothers Inc
Amy Huie, Individual
Animo Partnership in Natural Resources
Ashley Babcock, Individual
Atrisco
Blackfeet Agriculture Resource Management Plan (ARMP)
Blackfeet Nation Stockgrowers Association
Blackfeet Natural Resource Conservation District
Border Agricultural Workers Project
Bridget Sweet, Individual
Brynelle Rolland, Individual
California Association of Food Banks
Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment
CHANGE Philanthropy
Cheyenne Stone, Individual
Church Women United in New York State
Climate Change Leadership Institute and the New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group
College of Menominee Nation
Community Hunger Solutions
Compañeras Campesinas
Cottage House Inc.
Dakota Rural Action
Dream of Wild Health
DX Beef, LLC
Elizabeth Hoover, Individual
Ella Robertson, Individual
Ellen Vandevisse, Individual
Endangered Habitats League
Eskehyll Farm
Family Farm Action
Farm Aid
Farm Credit Council
Farm Journal Foundation
Feeding America
First American Capital Corp.
Letter from 177 Tribes, Organizations, & Individuals
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First Nations Development Institute
Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Food Research & Action Center
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Fort Independence Tribe of Paiute Indians
Fort Lewis College
Four Bands Community Fund
Foxhead Regenerative Agriculture Project
Friends of the Earth
Good Earth Garden School
Guidiville Rancheria of California
HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance
Heartwood
Hempstead Project Heart
Heroda Bikax'e Consulting LLC
Hope's Harvest RI
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, Individual
Indian Land Tenure Foundation
Indigikitchen
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Inter Tribal Association of Arizona
Intertribal Agriculture Council
InterTribal Buffalo Council
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Jason George, Individual
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Joseph Gazing Wolf, Individual
Joseph Seller, Individual, Lead Counsel of Keepseagle Class Action Litigation
Julie Sevier Miller, Individual
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College
Lakota Funds
Land Stewardship Project
LaSalle Cattle
Latino Farmers of the Southeast
LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.
Makoce Agriculture Development, Inc
Maryland Hunger Solutions
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Melissa Leilani DeMello, Individual
Menominee Nation of Wisconsin
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
Michelle Schulz, Individual
Midwest Organic & Sustainable Agriculture
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
Modoc Nation
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Congress of American Indians
National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International
National Farm to School Network
National FFA Organization
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Wildlife Federation
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Native American Natural Foods
Native American Rights Fund
Native Americans in Philanthropy
Native CDFI Network
Native Food and Nutrition Resource Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
Natwani Coalition
Navajo Nation Ganado Farm Board
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)
North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project
North South Institute
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Northern California Tribal Court Coalition
Now You Know New Mexico
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Ohe.laku Cooperative
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.
Opus Consulting
Organization en California de Lideres Campesinas
Osage Nation Ranch LLC
Oweesta Corporation
Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry Company
People's Action
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Pesticide Action Network
Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation
Pueblo of San Felipe
Quality Equipment, LLC
Quentin Means
Quivira Coalition
Red Feathers Native American Cuisine
Red Willow Center, Taos Pueblo
Reinvestment Fun
Rhode Island Food Policy Council
Rosalie Z. Fanshel, Individual
Rosebud Economic Development Corporation
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund,
Rural Coalition
Rural Development Leadership Network
San Diego Hunger Coalition
Santa Clara Pueblo
Share Our Strength
Shiprock Traditional Farmers Cooperative
Sicangu Community Development Corporation
Sierra Club
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Nation
South Dakota Indian Business Alliance
Spirit Lake Tribe
Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Funders
Sweet Grass Consulting, LLC
Tanka Fund
Tanka Resilient Agriculture
The Akana Group Inc
The California Indian Museum and Cultural Center
The Common Market
The DX Ranch
The Sioux Chef
Thunderbird Strategic LLC
Tortugas Pueblo and Zia Queenbee Farm & Field Institute
Travois
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
Tyler Ranch
Uncas Consulting LLC
United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund
United States Cattlemen's Association
University of Minnesota Extension
University of Wisconsin - Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
Victory Hemp Foods
Wallace Center at Winrock International
Washington State University Western Center
WATCH, INC
White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP)
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm (Deg Hit'an Dine, Inupiaq)
World Farmers
April 23, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, I write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country’s food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA’s Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,

ANDREW WERK, Jr.
President
April 16, 2020

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Menominee Indian Tribe, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency's ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Sincerely,

Gunnar Peters
Chairman
Menominee Tribal Legislature
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
April 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
*Majority Leader*  *Minority Leader*
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  The Honorable John Boozman
*Chairwoman*  *Ranking Member*
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,  U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry  Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building  328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel**

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of Dream of Wild Health, an Indigenous-led nonprofit and agricultural producer serving the Native communities in MN, I write in full support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Sincerely,

Neely M. Snyder
Executive Director
Neely@dreamofwildhealth.org
Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Sincerely,

Shan Lewis
President, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona
Vice Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Inter Tribal Association of Arizona
21 Tribal Nations
April 21, 2021

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Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
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Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency's ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

The nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as USDA General Counsel is historic for several key reasons. As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Janie represents America’s first farmers. As a world renowned food and agriculture legal mind with more than 35 years of experience, Janie’s legal experience and expertise with food and agriculture law is unparalleled. As an agricultural lawyer during the devastating farm financial crisis of the 1980s, Janie also has experience assisting ag and food...
producers through incredibly tough times, an essential need for public servants today as our country’s ag and food producers weather the economic and health crises brought on by the pandemic. Janie’s nomination is a strong statement that agriculture and Rural America must have people in the building at USDA who know what they are going through, and most importantly how to help during these very difficult times. Janie Hipp is exactly the right person at the right time, because difficult times call for extraordinary leadership.

Janie Hipp’s career and reputation are extraordinary. She has dedicated her entire legal career to working on behalf of Rural America and our food producers. It’s not only her passion, but it’s in her heart. Being from a small, rural southeastern Oklahoma town that was agriculture-dependent and infrastructure-poor, she planted her professional and home roots firmly in Arkansas while traveling the country and world to help farmers and ranchers. Whether speaking one-on-one with a producer, or speaking on a stage in front of thousands, she always brings the same passion and brilliance and speaks truth to power on behalf of agriculture and Rural America. Janie grew up there, lives there, and serves the people there.

In working alongside producers to solve the complex legal changes they face, Janie’s expertise spans the entirety of USDA’s programs and authority. She has extensive experience in food law and policy, trade, credit and finance, conservation, sustainable and regenerative ag, ag business, risk management, federal nutrition programs, research and education, and rural development to name a few. Janie is an encyclopedia of agricultural legal knowledge and directly connects the law to the histories and challenges our producers face with a specific eye on how it can be applied to make it better for the producer. Not only does Janie know the law, she knows its applications within USDA inside and out—just like a farmer knows their tractor—which is essential for General Counsel who has to look at the legal and program authorities across the entire agency.

Janie also has over seven years of experience working at USDA in various capacities, including serving as a national program leader for Farm Financial Management, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Risk Management Education, and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development programs at the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture. She was then tapped by Secretary Vilsack to work closely with him as Senior Advisor for Tribal Relations and Director of the Office of Tribal Relations, during the Obama Administration. In a majority of these roles, Janie worked across programs and USDA agencies to create new connections to help farmers and ranchers. With her legal mind back at USDA as General Counsel, we believe that she will help Secretary Vilsack get the Department running better than ever during a time when we need USDA the most.

While Janie’s legal expertise is unmatched, so is her experience working on behalf of Rural America. Janie sat at kitchen tables to help producers during the farm financial crisis of the 1980s. Janie sat at conference tables across the country listening to Tribal leaders and state and local government officials looking to build strong agricultural economies. Janie has sat at tables at USDA, the White House, the U.S.
Congress, and the United Nations to guide lawmakers tackling the most difficult issues facing America’s food producers at the national and international levels. In all of these spaces, Janie brings her unparalleled passion, heart, experience, and intelligence to make sure that agriculture and Rural America are represented, and that everyone has a seat at the table and voice in the effort.

We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country’s food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA’s Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,

Delbert Hopkins – SWO Tribal Chairman
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
*Majority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
*Minority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
*Chairwoman*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman  
*Ranking Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Fort Independence Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Indian Reservation, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Respectfully,

Carl Dahlberg
Tribal Chairman
April 20, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
*Majority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
*Minority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
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*Ranking Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation / Watuppa Reservation, write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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As Descendants of the Algonquin Language Bands, our Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe is a member of the original Pokanoket Federation led by Grand Sachem Massasoit otherwise known as Ousamequin (Yellow Feather). The Pocasset Tribe encompassed present-day Tiverton, Rhode Island and parts of Southeastern Massachusetts including Fall River, Freetown, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Westport, and Middleboro. The Pocasset Tribe was a first contact tribe
headed by Chief Corbitant, father of Female Sachem Weetamoe, King Phillips' Sister-in-Law. The Pocasset was one of the largest and most powerful tribes in the Pokanoket Federation. Our reservation was the first deeded reservation and is the only Pocasset Territory reserved indefinitely for the Royal Family line of Massasoit and his Clans. Today the Pocasset’s have a traditional ‘Clan Style’ Tribal Council of Chiefs that administers the tribes’ day to day operations.

What we hope to emphasize is that the omission of non-federally recognized tribes from such discussions leads to the exclusion of perspectives, experiences, and knowledge that could enhance programs and policies designed to serve those same populations. Our work to educate the surrounding community, to advocate for resources that address the needs of our people, provide us with a deeper understanding. We have successfully formed the only tribal alliance with a casino in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We currently hold the only tribal land trust, Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust, in this region. These efforts and our growing regional alliances have positioned us to receive grant funding from the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service that will help advance outreach and conservation efforts in support of non-tribal communities, refugees, and under-served groups across New England.

We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country’s food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA’s Office of General Counsel.

With great respect,
Chief George Spring Buffalo
Pocasset Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation / Watuppa Reservation
Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, I write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Sincerely,

Jamie Azure

Jamie azure, Tribal Chairman

4180 Highway 281, PO Box 900
Belcourt ND, 58316
O: (701) 477-2673
C: (701) 278-2253
Jamie.azure@tmbci.org
April 20, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
*Majority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
*Minority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
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U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
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*Ranking Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
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Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma I write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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April 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
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The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
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U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
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The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
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Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Climate Change Leadership Institute and the New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA's
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Sincerely,

Robb Hirsch
Executive Director of the Climate Change Leadership Institute
Co-founder of the NM Healthy Soil Working Group
www.takeresponsibility.us / robb@takeresponsibility.us / 505-988-3364
April 21, 2021

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Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to...
the agency's ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country's food and agriculture producers.

The nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as USDA General Counsel is historic for several key reasons. As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Janie represents America's first farmers. As a world renowned food and agriculture legal mind with more than 35 years of experience, Janie's legal experience and expertise with food and agriculture law is unparalleled. As an agricultural lawyer during the devastating farm financial crisis of the 1980s, Janie also has experience assisting ag and food producers through incredibly tough times, an essential need for public servants today as our country's ag and food producers weather the economic and health crises brought on by the pandemic. Janie's nomination is a strong statement that agriculture and Rural America must have people in the building at USDA who know what they are going through, and most importantly how to help during these very difficult times. Janie Hipp is exactly the right person at the right time, because difficult times call for extraordinary leadership.

Janie Hipp's career and reputation are extraordinary. She has dedicated her entire legal career to working on behalf of Rural America and our food producers. It's not only her passion, but it's in her heart. Being from a small, rural southeastern Oklahoma town that was agriculture-dependent and infrastructure-poor, she planted her professional and home roots firmly in Arkansas while traveling the country and world to help farmers and ranchers. Whether speaking one-on-one with a producer, or speaking on a stage in front of thousands, she always brings the same passion and brilliance and speaks truth to power on behalf of agriculture and Rural America. Janie grew up there, lives there, and serves the people there.

In working alongside producers to solve the complex legal changes they face, Janie's expertise spans the entirety of USDA's programs and authority. She has extensive experience in food law and policy, trade, credit and finance, conservation, sustainable and regenerative ag, ag business, risk management, federal nutrition programs, research and education, and rural development to name a few. Janie is an encyclopedia of agricultural legal knowledge and directly connects the law to the histories and challenges our producers face with a specific eye on how it can be applied to make it better for the producer. Not only does Janie know the law, she knows its applications within USDA inside and out — just like a farmer knows their tractor — which is essential for General Counsel who has to look at the legal and program authorities across the entire agency.

Janie also has over seven years of experience working at USDA in various capacities, including serving as a national program leader for Farm Financial Management, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Risk Management Education, and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development programs at the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture. She was then tapped by Secretary Vilsack to work closely with him as Senior Advisor for Tribal Relations and Director of the Office of Tribal Relations, during the Obama Administration. In a majority of these roles, Janie worked across programs and USDA agencies to create new connections to help farmers and ranchers. With her legal mind back at USDA as General Counsel, we believe that she will help Secretary Vilsack get the Department running better than ever during a time when we need USDA the most.

While Janie's legal expertise is unmatched, so is her experience working on behalf of Rural America. Janie sat at kitchen tables to help producers during the farm financial crisis of the 1980s. Janie sat at conference tables across the country listening to Tribal leaders and state and local government officials looking to build strong agricultural economies. Janie has sat at tables at USDA, the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the United Nations to guide lawmakers tackling the most difficult issues facing America's food producers at the national and international levels. In all of these spaces, Janie brings her unparalleled passion, heart, experience, and intelligence to make sure that agriculture and Rural America are represented, and that everyone has a seat at the table and voice in the effort.

We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country's food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA's Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,

Mary Greene Trottier, President
April 22, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the, Shiprock Traditional Farmers Cooperative, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Janie Hipp’s career and reputation are extraordinary. She has dedicated her entire legal career to working on behalf of Rural America and our food producers. It’s not only her passion, but it’s in her heart. Being from a small, rural southeastern Oklahoma town that was agriculture-dependent and infrastructure-poor, she planted her professional and home roots firmly in Arkansas while traveling the country and world to help farmers and ranchers. Whether speaking one-on-one with a producer, or speaking on a stage in front of thousands, she always brings the same passion and brilliance and speaks truth to power on behalf of agriculture and Rural America. Janie grew up there, lives there, and serves the people there.

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We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country’s food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA’s Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,

Beverly Maxwell, President
Joann Tyler, Vice President
Betsy Yazzie, Secretary

Board Members: Lula Sandoval
Clarina Clark
Harrison Yellowman
Wallace Buck Jr.
April 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
*Majority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
*Minority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
*Chairwoman*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

The Honorable John Boozman  
*Ranking Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Pueblo of San Felipe we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a Native American with the knowledge and experience that comes from working with all different types of producers, Janie Hipp is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

The nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as USDA General Counsel is historic and as a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Janie represents America’s first farmers, and has extensive experience working on behalf of rural America.
We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Janie Simms Hipp to serve as the next General Counsel of USDA. There is much work to do to address the systemic, historic, and current barriers facing our country's food producers, and we believe there is no one better than Janie Simms Hipp to lead USDA's Office of General Counsel.

Sincerely,
Pueblo of San Felipe

[Signatures]

Governor Anthony Ortiz

Lt. Governor James Tenorio
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
*Majority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
*Minority Leader*  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
*Chairwoman*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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*Ranking Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
328A Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Nomination and Confirmation of Janie Simms Hipp as USDA General Counsel

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairwoman Stabenow, and Ranking Member Boozman:

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Ganado Farm Board, we write in support of President Biden’s nomination of Janie Simms Hipp to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a strong Indigenous woman with an incredible depth of knowledge and experience that comes from working across this country and the world with all different types of producers, Janie is uniquely qualified to provide sound legal advice to Secretary Vilsack and all of USDA’s agencies. We urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Hipp as the next General Counsel of USDA as her expertise is critically important to the agency’s ongoing pandemic response and the support USDA provides to all of our country’s food and agriculture producers.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Evangeline Curley-Thomas
Ganado Farm Board President
P.O. Box 188
Ganado, AZ 86505