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November 4, 2019

To: Members of the Wisconsin State Senate
RE: Confirmation of Brad Pfaff for Secretary of DATCP

Dear Senators,

Cooperative Network represents a diverse and active group of cooperatives including agricultural cooperatives in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Wisconsin farmers are facing some of the most challenging economic and weather-related conditions they have seen in decades. When Secretary Pfaff was nominated, Cooperative Network joined a group of agriculture groups voicing support for Governor Evers' nomination, and we continue to support his confirmation.

As the President & CEO of Cooperative Network, I have been impressed with Secretary Designate Brad Pfaff's commitment to Wisconsin agriculture and his willingness to work with stakeholders. Recently, I saw the secretary speak as part of a WisBusiness panel, "Navigating the New Economy" addressing the troubled farm economy. It was clear to me that Pfaff is actively looking for solutions to help grow and improve Wisconsin's agriculture economy.

As a board member of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, it has been my honor to work closely with Secretary Designate, Brad Pfaff. His experience, work ethic and dedication to Wisconsin agriculture highly qualifies him to lead this important state agency. I believe it is important to allow Secretary Designate Pfaff and his staff to continue to work toward real solutions and a better future.

I strongly recommend the state Senate confirm his appointment on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Smith
President & CEO
Cooperative Network