February 28, 2018

For Immediate Release

Statement from 25x'25 on Confirmation of Bill Northey
As USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture

The 25x'25 Alliance applauds the efforts of those who worked to finally bring to the Senate floor this week the nomination of former Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey to a key undersecretary position at USDA and see it confirmed almost instantly by voice vote.

Northey's nomination had been placed on hold for more than four months in a dispute over the Renewable Fuel Standard. And while the nomination was freed and voted on simultaneously with a meeting that lawmakers involved in the dispute were holding Tuesday with President Trump at the White House, no concessions were made to those who would undermine a strong and successful biofuel blending program.

The Alliance specifically thanks Iowa Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst for their dogged defense of the Renewable Fuels Standard, a highly successful, congressionally approved program that has been a strong engine driving the rural economy, creating new markets for farmers, creating new jobs in rural America, giving consumers more fuel choices, and improving national security and our nation's air quality.

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25x'25 is a diverse alliance of agricultural, forestry, environmental, conservation and other organizations and businesses that are working collaboratively to advance the goal of securing 25 percent of the nation's energy needs from renewable sources by the year 2025. 25x'25 is led by an executive committee composed of volunteer leaders. The 25x'25 goal has been endorsed by nearly 1,000 partners, 35 current and former governors, 15 state legislatures and the U.S. Congress through The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. 25x'25 operates as a special project of Solutions from the Land, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to land-based solutions to global challenges.