



October 2, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Pam Bondi
United States Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Rollins and Attorney General Bondi:

On behalf of Farm Action—a nonpartisan organization representing a nationwide network of independent farmers and ranchers—we commend the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for entering into a recent [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to jointly scrutinize the rapidly rising costs of farm inputs. We share your optimism that this action will strengthen the agencies' mutual effort to promote competition in agricultural markets.

For too long, input market consolidation has allowed corporate agribusinesses to exert their market power and raise prices that are putting stress on farm operations. As [Secretary Rollins noted](#) at the recent Agriculture Outlook Forum, since 2020, fertilizer prices have risen 37 percent, seed costs 18 percent, fuel and oil 32 percent, equipment 45 percent, labor 47 percent, and interest expenses a staggering 73 percent.

Indeed, Farm Action's [Agriculture Consolidation Data Hub](#) reveals the extraordinary consolidation faced by our nation's farmers. For example, just two companies control 90 percent of the North American phosphate capacity; the top four companies for soybean, corn, and cotton seed control 70, 80, and 90 percent of the market, respectively; and the top three equipment companies control 95 percent of the large tractor market.

The MOU is an important step toward addressing these systemic challenges and confronting the corporate power driving them.

Our organization has long engaged on these issues and brings valuable experience as you move forward. Last year, Farm Action Chief Strategy Officer Joe Maxwell [testified](#) before the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Economic Policy to highlight corporate power and consolidation in agriculture. We have [previously called on the Department of Justice](#) to investigate potential fertilizer market manipulation during the 2021 price spike. And, our Research and Policy Director, Sarah Carden, [testified before USDA](#) on competition and intellectual property in seeds. These efforts reflect our commitment to exposing anticompetitive practices and advocating for policies that restore fairness to agricultural markets.

We stand ready to support your agencies as you work together to implement this important initiative. Our extensive research, including Farm Action's [Agricultural Consolidation Data Hub](#), tracks corporate power across the food system and offers actionable analysis that can inform oversight and enforcement strategies. Our team is willing to share this resource, provide case studies from farmers experiencing these cost pressures firsthand, and participate in further dialogue to ensure your work delivers meaningful results.

Farmers urgently need relief from consolidated markets and skyrocketing input costs. We are grateful for your efforts to restore fairness and competition to agricultural markets, and we look forward to working alongside you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Angela Huffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela Huffman
President, Farm Action