RURAL COMMUNITIES MUST COME FIRST

Our rural communities are at a critical juncture. Long the backbone of the United States economy, rural businesses and communities shared in the nation’s suffering during the Great Recession. Now, as the United States enjoys one of the longest periods of economic growth in our history, rural opportunity is lagging. According to USDA’s Economic Research Service, rural Americans trail their metropolitan counterparts across a range of key indicators, including income, employment growth, and labor force participation.

Closing the rural opportunity gap will take efficient policy coordination and hard work.

State departments of agriculture are up to the task. States are already leading the response to many of Rural America's most complex challenges, including extreme weather, market uncertainty, and long-term economic headwinds. However, they cannot do it alone. To truly build opportunity in agricultural and our rural communities, all levels of government must work together to chart a path forward.

THE STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

As we look to the 2020 Presidential election and beyond, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is calling on the federal government to partner with us in a renewed commitment to developing resilient rural communities.

To do this, NASDA is asking the next Presidential Administration to:

• Expand Market Opportunities for U.S. Producers
• Increase Access to Rural Broadband
• Enhance Rural Workforce Development Opportunities
• Build and Sustain Rural Communities
• Invest in Climate Resiliency Programs

With our unified front, we will be the catalyst for change in agriculture and rural communities.
#RuralisResilient