



February 6, 2020

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

**Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2020-DA-00815-F
Interim Response**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Departmental FOIA Office’s (DFO) first interim response to the FOIA request submitted on October 30, 2019. Your request sought the following records, for the time period from January 9, 2019, to November 21, 2019, the date the search for responsive records was initiated:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, or attachments thereto) or calendar entries involving (a) the USDA officials listed below in Column A and (b) the Kansas officials listed below in Column B regarding the relocation of USDA components to the Kansas City area:

Column A: USDA Officials	Column B: Kansas Officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Secretary Sonny Perdue, or anyone communicating on his behalf, including executive assistants, personal assistants, or schedulers ii. Acting Administrator Marca Weinberg iii. Associate Administrator Greg Pompelli iv. Director of Communications Jennifer Smits v. Director of Scheduling Lauren Sullivan vi. Chief of Staff Joby Young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and anyone communicating on her behalf, such as assistants, schedulers, and advisors ii. Former Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer iii. Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary David C. Toland iv. Kansas City, Kansas Mayor David Alvey and anyone communicating on his behalf, such as assistants, schedulers, and advisors v. Kansas City Area Development Council President and Chief Executive Tim Cowden vi. Senator Jerry Moran, and anyone communicating on his behalf, such as assistants and advisors, including but not limited to email addresses ending in @moran.senate.gov

vii. Former Chief of Staff Heidi Green	vii. Chief of Staff to Sen. Moran Brennen Britton (brennen_britton@moran.senate.gov)
viii. Chief of Staff Ray Starling	viii. Scheduler to Sen. Moran Emily Whitfield (emily_whitfield@moran.senate.gov)
ix. Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations Ken Barbic	ix. Senator Pat Roberts, and anyone communicating on his behalf, such as assistants and advisors, including but not limited to email addresses ending in @roberts.senate.gov
x. Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs Director Rob MacGregor	x. Chief of Staff to Sen. Roberts Jackie Cottrell (jackie_cottrell@roberts.senate.gov)
xi. Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Director Lillie Brady	xi. Scheduler to Sen. Roberts Jensine Moyer jensine_moyer@roberts.senate.gov
xii. Acting Economic Research Service Administrator Chris Hartley	xii. Representative Roger Marshall
xiii. Former Economic Research Service Administrator Mary Bohman	xiii. Chief of Staff to Rep. Marshall Brent Robertson (brent.robertson@mail.house.gov)
xiv. National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director J. Scott Angle	xiv. Scheduler to Rep. Marshall Madeline Gale (madeline.gale@mail.house.gov)
xv. Chief of Staff William Hoffman	xv. Representative Steve Watkins
	xvi. Scheduler to Rep. Watkins Kayla Herron (KS02scheduling@mail.house.gov)
	xvii. Representative Sharice Davids
	xviii. Scheduler to Rep. Davids Christina Jones (christina.jones@mail.house.gov)
	xix. Representative Ron Estes
	xx. Chief of Staff to Rep. Estes Josh Bell (josh.bell@mail.house.gov)
	xxi. Scheduler to Rep. Estes Lynn Haueter (lynn.haueter@mail.house.gov)

On October 21, 2019, the DFO asked American Oversight (AO) for supplemental email information associated with some of the individuals listed above in Column B in order to facilitate the agency's search efforts. On December 23, 2019, AO responded by providing additional email for specific persons listed in Column B. This first interim responds to AO's request as originally submitted (above).

This portion of your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

An initial search for responsive records was conducted by the DFO's telecommunications provider, the Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. The email accounts associated with the individuals listed under Column A were searched for ERS and NIFA relocation-related communications with individuals listed in Column B, from January 9, 2019 to November 21, 2019. The CEC search located seventy-two (72) pages of responsive records.

Following a review of the records, the DFO has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) (FOIA Exemption 6). Below is an explanation of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 6

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of an individual's personal information, mobile phone numbers, direct-dial phone numbers, email handles of third parties, and a passcode for a conference call. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. Releasing individuals' private phone numbers and email addresses could subject them to unwarranted or unsolicited communications, or even harassment. Although the release of an individual's personal information would not likely result in unsolicited communications, this information is of a private nature and its release does not shed light on governmental operations. Regarding the conference call passcode, participants of a conference call have a privacy interest in ensuring that no uninvited person is listening in on their calls. The release of passcodes could undermine the privacy of those calls. Since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, the DFO has determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

The DFO is awaiting the CEC search results to the supplemental search initiated following AO's December 23, 2019 request modification. Due to the possibility of an additional release of records, your appeal rights for all records released in response to this request will be provided to you in the DFO's final response letter.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Camille Aponte. Ms. Aponte may be contacted by telephone at (202) 690-5260, or electronically at Camille.Aponte@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

Austin R. Evers

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You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://ogis.archives.gov/mediation-program/request-assistance.htm> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Melanie Enciso at (202) 694-5982, or electronically at melanie.enciso@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

The DFO appreciates your patience as we continue processing the remainder of your FOIA request.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosures: Responsive Records (72 pages)

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran)
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Hey Judd, I don't believe so. We are getting up to speed currently following the shutdown. All of the E&Y's work was not excepted during the shutdown, so everything has been on hold.

Will let you know when I hear more.

Rob

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 12:38 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Rob, I wanted to circle back on the ERS & NIFA relocation. I believe you indicated that Ernst & Young was going to provide short list of recommended relocation sites for the Secretary's review early this year. Do you know if that has occurred yet, and if so, will the finalists be made public?

Thanks,
Judd

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 4:40 PM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Hey Judd - do you have a minute to talk?

202-260-8472

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 4:35 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA ERS & NIFA

Rob, I wanted to touch base on the USDA relocation of ERS and NIFA. As you know, Sen. Moran strongly supports your efforts to relocated the agencies. Obviously we hope one or both of the agencies land in Kansas.

I wanted to see if you had and information on the next steps. Does USDA intend to narrow down the applicants and request additional information from those sites? If so, do you have an estimated timeframe that will occur?

I am also wondering the process by which USDA making decisions, for example, if USDA has created a working group to evaluate the options and present Secretary Perdue with recommendations?

Thanks,
Judd

Agriculture Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:02 AM

CC: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

BCC: carley.esser@mail.house.gov; samantha.fay@mail.house.gov; elissa.mclerran@mail.house.gov; michael.reed@mail.house.gov; joshua.woodward@mail.house.gov; nick.grimes@mail.house.gov; christina.mahoney@mail.house.gov; Christian.Lovell@mail.house.gov; Kelliann.Blazek@mail.house.gov; alicia.molt@mail.house.gov; tom.mahr@mail.house.gov; maryellen.richardson@mail.house.gov; portia.boone@mail.house.gov; nate.zimpher@mail.house.gov; samuel.shumate@mail.house.gov; alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov; jeff.kratz@mail.house.gov; doug.stout@mail.house.gov; marc.broadly@mail.house.gov; kendall.strong@mail.house.gov; timia.crisp@mail.house.gov; james.deatley@mail.house.gov; william.roberts@mail.house.gov; connor.white@mail.house.gov; sydney.pettit@mail.house.gov; haley.wilson@mail.house.gov; hunter.hobart@mail.house.gov; chris.eddowes@mail.house.gov; eric.gustafson@mail.house.gov; iain.hart@mail.house.gov; kristin.seum@mail.house.gov; kyle.jacobs@mail.house.gov; nicholas.vance@mail.house.gov; Gisselle.Reynolds@mail.house.gov; nicole.mclaren@mail.house.gov; shayne.woods@mail.house.gov; michael.seeds@mail.house.gov; Kaley.mathis@mail.house.gov; michael.horder@mail.house.gov; borden.hoskins@mail.house.gov; heath_hansen@lee.senate.gov; brent_blevins@cornyn.senate.gov; meris_petek@ernst.senate.gov; trey_mckenzie@blunt.senate.gov; judd_gardner@moran.senate.gov; Matthew.Bishop@mail.house.gov; Sarah_Pearce@portman.senate.gov; micah_chambers@cramer.senate.gov; will_stafford@roberts.senate.gov; kyle_varner@ag.senate.gov; megan_conklin@vanhollen.senate.gov; mae_stevens@cardin.senate.gov; valeria_sandoval@warner.senate.gov; nick_barbash@kaine.senate.gov; sarah_venuto@manchin.senate.gov; Adam_Schiff@smith.senate.gov; jennifer_treutel@klobuchar.senate.gov; lauralee_burkett@fischer.senate.gov; ginger_willson@sasse.senate.gov; dan_hillenbrand@inhofe.senate.gov; valerie_manak@lankford.senate.gov; jonathan_mccracken@brown.senate.gov; wesley_wright@toomey.senate.gov; jessica.norfleet@mail.house.gov; janae_brady@ag.senate.gov; matt_erickson@ag.senate.gov; katherine_thomas@ag.senate.gov; fred_clark@ag.senate.gov; andrew_rezendes@ag.senate.gov; katie_naessens@ag.senate.gov; joseph_shultz@ag.senate.gov; kellie.adesina@mail.house.gov; MaryBeth_Schultz@ag.senate.gov; keith.jones@mail.house.gov; brandon.honeycutt@mail.house.gov; jeremy.witte@mail.house.gov; caleb.crosswhite@mail.house.gov; Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov; Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov; Carlisle_Clarke@appro.senate.gov; Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov; Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov; Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov; Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov; Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov; Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov; Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov

Subject: USDA: ERS NIFA Relocation Middle List of Sites Announcement

Attachments: ERS-NIFA EOI Medium List Press Release FINAL.pdf

All,

We wanted to let you know that later this morning we will be releasing the attached Press Release announcing the Middle List of Potential Sites for the Relocation of ERS and NIFA. USDA is following a rigorous site selection process to identify the new locations with involvement from USDA, ERS, and NIFA leadership.

Please let us know if you have any additional follow up questions.

Robert MacGregor



Policy and Congressional Advisor
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8472

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Secretary Perdue Announces Middle List For ERS and NIFA Relocation

(Washington, D.C., March 12, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the initial down-select list of 136 Expressions of Interest received from parties in 35 states vying to become the new homes of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). USDA is following a [rigorous site selection process](#) to identify the new locations with involvement from USDA, ERS, and NIFA leadership.

“The announcement of this middle list shows that we are committed to the important missions of these agencies and transparency in our selection process. USDA will make the best choice for our employees and customers,” Perdue said. “Relocation will help ensure that USDA is the most effective, most efficient, and most customer-focused agency in the federal government, allowing us to be closer to our stakeholders and move our resources closer to our customers.”

For this initial down-select, USDA applied a set of guiding principles against the Expressions of Interest locations including USDA travel requirements, labor force statistics, work hours most compatible with all USDA office schedules. Sixty-seven Expressions of Interest remain under consideration.

The complete list of Expressions of Interest still under consideration is below.

State	Location	Applicant(s)
AL	Birmingham	City of Birmingham; University of Alabama at Birmingham; Auburn University; Tuskegee University; Alabama A&M University; Economic Development Association of Alabama
AL	Shelby County	City of Hoover, Shelby County, 58 INC. – The Nonprofit Economic Coalition of Shelby County, the Birmingham Business Alliance, Alabama Power Company, Harbert Realty Services, and Select Income REIT / RMR Group
AR	Arkansas	Arkansas Economic Development Commission
AZ	Tempe	Arizona Commerce Authority; Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Agriculture
CO	Aurora	Aurora Economic Development Council
CO	Denver	Cottonwood Management Company
CO	Denver	Forest City Trust
CO	Denver	Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation
DE	Newark	University of Delaware
FL	Tallahassee	Tallahassee-Leon County

GA	Athens-Clarke County	Athens-Clarke County Development Authority and Nichols Land & Investment Company and Georgia Department of Economic Development
GA	Griffin Spalding County	Griffin-Spalding Development Authority, Rooker, UGA and Georgia Department of Economic Development
IA	Ames	City of Ames and Iowa State University
IA	Ankeny	City of Ankeny/ Greater Des Moines Partnership, Cultivation Corridor, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority
IA	Ankeny	DRA Properties
IA	Des Moines	City of Des Moines; Greater Des Moines Partnership
IA	Council Bluffs	Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation; City of Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County
IL	Algonquin	Village of Algonquin
IL	Barrington	Village of Barrington; Bourns Inc
IL	Des Plaines	City of Des Plaines
IL	DuPage County	Economic Development Agency for DuPage County, Illinois
IL	Huntley	Village of Huntley
IL	Kane County	Kane County
IL	Orland Park	Orland Park, State of Illinois, Will County, Illinois Intersect and the Will County Center for Economic Development
IL	Schaumburg	Village of Schaumburg
IL	Warrenville	NAI Hiffman
IN	Multiple	Indiana Economic Development Corporation; AgriNovus Indiana, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and Purdue University
KS and MO	Kansas City	HPI Group
KS and MO	Kansas City	805 Penn
KS and MO	Greater Kansas City Region	The Kansas City Area Development Council
LA	Baton Rouge	The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), along with partners Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF), Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF), Louisiana State University (LSU), and Southern University and & Mechanical College (SUAM) Agricultural
MD	Montgomery County	Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
MD	College Park	University of Maryland College Park

MI	East Lansing	Michigan State University, State of Michigan, Capital Region International Airport (LAN), Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Michigan Farm Bureau
MN	Falcon Heights	Buhl Investors
MN	Minneapolis	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership (GREATER MSP), and the Minnesota Food and Agriculture Initiative
MN	Shakopee	The Opus Group
MO	St. Louis	A consortium of regional leaders across six counties in Missouri and Illinois; State of Missouri and Missouri's Departments of Agriculture, Economic Development, and Workforce Development, as well as the Missouri Partnership
NC	Kannapolis	The North Carolina Research Campus; the city of Kannapolis, Cabarrus and Rowan Counties, and the state of North Carolina
NC	Chapel Hill	State Employee Credit Union
NC	Research Triangle Region	Wake County, Durham County and Research Triangle Park
NE	Lincoln	The Nebraska consortium, led by Governor Pete Ricketts and former USDA Secretary Mike Johanns and including the State of Nebraska, University of Nebraska system, City of Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and public and private business
NE	Omaha	SPW Partners G and S and CBRE MEGA
NY	Greater Rochester	FLX Food and Beverage Consortium is led by Greater Rochester Enterprise, a not-for-profit economic development organization. Members of the Consortium include Cornell University and the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; the Cornell Agriculture and Technology Farm; Empire State Development; the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; the New York State Governor's Office; Rochester Institute of Technology; Tompkins County Area Development; the University of Rochester; and Wegmans Food Markets Inc.
OH	Akron	County of Summit
OH	Geauga County	Geauga County Department of Development

OH	Middlefield Village	Village of Middlefield
OH	Twinsburg	City of Twinsburg
OH	Streetsboro	City of Streetsboro
OH	Portage County	Brimfield Township
PA	Hanover Township	Private Citizen
SC	Columbia	State of South Carolina (including; South Carolina Department of Commerce, Clemson University, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, and Richland County's Economic Development Office)
TN	Knoxville	University of Tennessee, Knoxville/University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTK/UTIA); University of Tennessee, Martin (UTM); Tennessee State University (TSU); and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
TN	Memphis	Agricenter International
TX	San Marcos	Greater San Marcos Partnership; San Marcos, Hays County and Texas State University
TX	College Station	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
TX	Dallas	HPI Group
UT	Tooele County	Governor's Office of Economic Development, Tooele County, Tooele City, Utah State University, and the Economic Development Corporation of Utah
VA	Charlottesville	University of Virginia Foundation
VA	Greene County	County of Greene; Central Virginia Partnership in Economic Development; Virginia Economic Development Partnership; Fried Companies, Inc; Jones Lang LaSalle
VA	Madison County	Madison County; The Lester Group
VA	Caroline County	Thompson (Richmond)
VA	Caroline County	Caroline County Department of Economic Development
VA	Petersburg	Virginia State University and the Petersburg metropolitan region
VA	Richmond	The Riverstone Group, LLC
VA	Roanoke	Roanoke Regional Partnership
WI	Madison	City of Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALs), University of Wisconsin–Madison Office of University Relations, University Research Park,

		State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and 910 Mayer, LLC
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Questions regarding the USDA site selection process should be directed to relocation@usda.gov.

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 6:25 PM

CC: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

BCC: debbie@indianagr.com; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov;

John.shikles@governor.mo.gov; kate.bukowski@wisconsin.gov; lorea.stallard@nc.gov; bkettler@isda.in.gov;

Mike.Beam@ks.gov; steve.troxler@ncagr.gov; directorcc@mda.mo.gov; Bradley.Pffaf@wisconsin.gov

Subject: Perdue Announces Top Sites for ERS and NIFA Relocations

Good evening.

I wanted to make sure you and your staff were aware of this press release.

Have a great weekend!

Lillie



Lillie J. Brady, Deputy Director

Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: (b)(6)

The banner features a scenic view of a green field with rows of crops under a clear blue sky. The USDA logo is prominently displayed in the center, with the text "United States Department of Agriculture" below it. At the bottom of the banner, it reads "USDA Office of Communications" and "press@oc.usda.gov".

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Office of Communications / press@oc.usda.gov

Press Release

Perdue Announces Top Sites for ERS and NIFA Relocations

(Washington, D.C., May 3, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the finalists of 136 Expressions of Interest received from parties in 35 states vying to become the new homes of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

“This short list of locations took into consideration critical factors required to uphold the important missions of ERS and NIFA. We also considered factors important to our employees, such as quality of life,” Secretary Perdue said. “Relocation will help ensure USDA is the most effective, most efficient, and most customer-focused agency in the federal government, allowing us to be closer to our stakeholders and move our resources closer to our customers. Our commitment to the public and our employees is to continue to be transparent as we proceed with our analysis.”

Background:

As part of the rigorous site selection process, USDA narrowed the Expressions of Interest list using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, NIFA, and ERS leadership. The criteria included:

- Quality of Life: Subcategory examples include Diversity Index, Residential Housing Costs, Access to Healthcare, and Home and Community Safety Ranking.
- Costs (Capital and Operating): Subcategory examples include Commercial Real Estate Costs, CPI Index, and Wage Costs.
- Workforce: Subcategory examples include Labor Force Growth Rate, Unemployment Rate, and the Labor Force Population.
- Logistics / IT Infrastructure: Subcategory examples include Lodging Availability, Proximity to Customers, and Airport Accessibility.

The top Expressions of Interest were reviewed in detail, and USDA selected a short list of locations offering existing buildings with sufficient space to meet ERS and NIFA requirements. In alphabetical order, these are the top three Expressions of Interest under consideration:

State	Location	Applicant(s)
IN	Multiple	Purdue University, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, State of Indiana
KS and MO	Greater Kansas City Region	The Kansas City Area Development Council, The Kansas City Animal Health Corridor
NC	Research Triangle Region	NC Research Triangle, Wake County, Durham County and Research Triangle Park

While not in the top three, these Expressions of Interest in alphabetical order remain under consideration as alternative locations should the top three locations not suit USDA’s needs:

State	Location	Applicant(s)
MO	St. Louis	St. Louis Regional Consortium, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, State of Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Partnership
WI	Madison	City of Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALs), University of Wisconsin–Madison Office of University Relations, University Research Park, State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and 910 Maver, LLC

[Learn More](#)



Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:53 PM

BCC: debbie@indianagr.com; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov;

John.shikles@governor.mo.gov; lorea.stallard@nc.gov; Jordan.Whichard@nc.gov; jim.mccleskey@nc.gov; kate.bukowski@wisconsin.gov

Subject: ERS/NIFA Relocation Top Sites Announcement

Attachments: 5.3.19 USDA Short List Press Release.docx

Hey all – I'm sure that you all have seen the news already, but I wanted to make sure you saw our press release that went out last week announcing the top sites for the ERS and NIFA Relocations.

Background:

As part of the [rigorous site selection process](#), USDA narrowed the Expressions of Interest list using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, NIFA, and ERS leadership. The criteria included:

- *Quality of Life:* Subcategory examples include Diversity Index, Residential Housing Costs, Access to Healthcare, and Home and Community Safety Ranking.
- *Costs (Capital and Operating):* Subcategory examples include Commercial Real Estate Costs, CPI Index, and Wage Costs.
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While not in the top three, these Expressions of Interest in alphabetical order remain under consideration as alternative locations should the top three locations not suit USDA's needs:

State	Location	Applicant(s)
MO	St. Louis	St. Louis Regional Consortium, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, State of Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Partnership
WI	Madison	City of Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALs), University of Wisconsin–Madison Office of University Relations, University Research Park, State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and 910 Mayer, LLC

Please let me know if you have questions.

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
(b)(6)

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“This short list of locations took into consideration critical factors required to uphold the important missions of ERS and NIFA. We also considered factors important to our employees, such as quality of life,” **Secretary Perdue said**. “Relocation will help ensure USDA is the most effective, most efficient, and most customer-focused agency in the federal government, allowing us to be closer to our stakeholders and move our resources closer to our customers. Our commitment to the public and our employees is to continue to be transparent as we proceed with our analysis.”

Background:

As part of the [rigorous site selection process](#), USDA narrowed the Expressions of Interest list using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, NIFA, and ERS leadership. The criteria included:

- *Quality of Life*: Subcategory examples include Diversity Index, Residential Housing Costs, Access to Healthcare, and Home and Community Safety Ranking.
- *Costs (Capital and Operating)*: Subcategory examples include Commercial Real Estate Costs, CPI Index, and Wage Costs.
- *Workforce*: Subcategory examples include Labor Force Growth Rate, Unemployment Rate, and the Labor Force Population.
- *Logistics / IT Infrastructure*: Subcategory examples include Lodging Availability, Proximity to Customers, and Airport Accessibility.

The top Expressions of Interest were reviewed in detail, and USDA selected a short list of locations offering existing buildings with sufficient space to meet ERS and NIFA requirements. In alphabetical order, these are the top three Expressions of Interest under consideration:

State	Location	Applicant(s)
IN	Multiple	Purdue University, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, State of Indiana
KS and MO	Greater Kansas City Region	The Kansas City Area Development Council, The Kansas City Animal Health Corridor
NC	Research Triangle Region	NC Research Triangle, Wake County, Durham County and Research Triangle Park

While not in the top three, these Expressions of Interest in alphabetical order remain under consideration as alternative locations should the top three locations not suit USDA’s needs:

State	Location	Applicant(s)
MO	St. Louis	St. Louis Regional Consortium, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, State of Missouri, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Partnership
WI	Madison	City of Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences (CALS), University of Wisconsin–Madison Office of University Relations, University Research Park, State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and 910 Mayer, LLC

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran)
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Thank you for the additional info. Secretary Perdue is on international travel through the end of next week, so I will reach back out just as soon as I have a better idea of what may work the week of May 20th. Thanks again!

Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, thanks for your quick response. The topic is the relocation of USDA ERS and NIFA. Understand that this is a busy month, hopefully the week of May 20th will work. If there are any times that I could hold as possibilities that week, please let me know.

Thanks for your help!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

Thanks for reaching out. Secretary Perdue has an extensive amount of travel this month, but I will let you know as soon as I can about a meeting the week of the 20th. May I ask the topic of the meeting?

Thank you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Scheduler

Good morning Lauren, I hope you are doing well. Senator Moran is hoping to meet with Secretary Perdue soon at his office. I wanted to check in and see what the Secretary's schedule looks like next week and the week of the 20th to see if it might be possible for them to meet in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks for your help and if you need anything, please let me know.

Best,

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:22 PM

To: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>

Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Lauren Sullivan, the Department's Director of Scheduling is cc'ed here.

Thanks!

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:53 PM

To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>

Subject: USDA Scheduler

Hey! Sen Moran is looking to request a meeting with Sec Perdue in the next couple weeks at USDA. Can you send me the contact for Sec Perdue's scheduler for us to reach out to?

Thank you!

Judd

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From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran)
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

That sounds great, thanks for your help!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Thanks, Emily. I will follow up as soon as I know more once the team is back from international travel, if that works for you.

Thank you again.
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, thank you for your email. The Senator definitely understands the Secretary's limitations on speaking about the relocation effort. He let me know that he would also like to discuss disaster assistance for Midwest flood victims and the additional round of trade aid payments to farmers. Understand the Secretary is on travel right now, but if there is time in the coming weeks to schedule a meeting on this topic, please let me know. Thanks!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

I have spoken to our team internally about this request. At this stage in the relocation we are undergoing a review of locality sites in order to make a final decision on a locality. Following that will be a GSA competitive bidding process for specific leases in the chosen locality. Accordingly, since the final outcome of a specific building is unknown, we are not in a position to meet with individual members on the specific localities on the final list.

Thanks for your understanding.

Best,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, thanks for your quick response. The topic is the relocation of USDA ERS and NIFA. Understand that this is a busy month, hopefully the week of May 20th will work. If there are any times that I could hold as possibilities that week, please let me know.

Thanks for your help!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

Thanks for reaching out. Secretary Perdue has an extensive amount of travel this month, but I will let you know as soon as I can about a meeting the week of the 20th. May I ask the topic of the meeting?

Thank you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Scheduler

Good morning Lauren, I hope you are doing well. Senator Moran is hoping to meet with Secretary Perdue soon at his office. I wanted to check in and see what the Secretary's schedule looks like next week and the week of the 20th to see if it might be possible for them to meet in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks for your help and if you need anything, please let me know.

Best,
Emily Whitfield
Scheduler
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Lauren Sullivan, the Department's Director of Scheduling is cc'ed here.

Thanks!

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
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Hey! Sen Moran is looking to request a meeting with Sec Perdue in the next couple weeks at USDA. Can you send me the contact for Sec Perdue's scheduler for us to reach out to?

Thank you!
Judd

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From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran)
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA Scheduler
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png

Sounds great, thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2019, at 3:40 PM, Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov> wrote:

Hey there,

I should have some times to offer early next week for this meeting. Thanks again for your patience and have a nice long weekend!

Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren,

I wanted to reach back out after the Senator and Secretary Perdue connected this afternoon by phone. The Senator let me know they discussed setting up a meeting at the USDA on the call. It would be to discuss the effect of the trade dispute on farmers, the second round trade aid to producers, and disaster assistance for Kansas flood victims. Thanks for continuing to check on times for this meeting, if there are any times available early June please let me know. I believe the week of June 10 works best for Senator Moran, but can be flexible.

Thanks again!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

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Thanks, Emily. I will follow up as soon as I know more once the team is back from international travel, if that works for you.

Thank you again.

Lauren

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Hi Lauren, thank you for your email. The Senator definitely understands the Secretary's limitations on speaking about the relocation effort. He let me know that he would also like to discuss disaster assistance for Midwest flood victims and the additional round of trade aid payments to farmers. Understand the Secretary is on travel right now, but if there is time in the coming weeks to schedule a meeting on this topic, please let me know. Thanks!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

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Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

I have spoken to our team internally about this request. At this stage in the relocation we are undergoing a review of locality sites in order to make a final decision on a locality. Following that will be a GSA competitive bidding process for specific leases in the chosen locality. Accordingly, since the final outcome of a specific building is unknown, we are not in a position to meet with individual members on the specific localities on the final list.

Thanks for your understanding.

Best,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
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Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

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Thanks for your help!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

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Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

Thanks for reaching out. Secretary Perdue has an extensive amount of travel this month, but I will let you know as soon as I can about a meeting the week of the 20th. May I ask the topic of the meeting?

Thank you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Scheduler

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Thanks for your help and if you need anything, please let me know.

Best,

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
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From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Lauren Sullivan, the Department's Director of Scheduling is cc'ed here.

Thanks!

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Scheduler

Hey! Sen Moran is looking to request a meeting with Sec Perdue in the next couple weeks at USDA. Can you send me the contact for Sec Perdue's scheduler for us to reach out to?

Thank you!
Judd

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From: Said, Morgan (Moran)
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
CC: Kennedy, Trenton (Moran); Holmberg, Garrison (Moran)
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Erin,

Thanks for the heads up. Appreciate you keeping us up-to-date down the road as USDA nears a decision and announcement.

Thank you!
Morgan

From: Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:erin.wilson@usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Said, Morgan (Moran) <Morgan_Said@moran.senate.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Cc: Kennedy, Trenton (Moran) <Trenton_Kennedy@moran.senate.gov>; Holmberg, Garrison (Moran) <Garrison_Holmberg@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Hi all,

I apologize for the delayed response, we will not be announcing a final location this week. We continue to review the proposed site locations and do not yet have a confirmed announcement date for a final location.

We are happy to follow up once more information is available, please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Thank you,
Erin Wilson
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
202-720-5478 (Direct)
(b)(6) (Work Cell)

From: Said, Morgan (Moran) <Morgan_Said@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 10:06 AM
To: Wilson, Erin E. - OSEC, Washington, DC <erin.wilson@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Cc: Kennedy, Trenton (Moran) <Trenton_Kennedy@moran.senate.gov>; Holmberg, Garrison (Moran) <Garrison_Holmberg@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA ERS & NIFA

Hi Erin and Ken,

Following up on Judd's inquiry below to see if you might be able to let us know when to expect an ERS & NIFA decision – any information you can share is much appreciated.

Thank you!

Morgan Said

Press Secretary

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Gardner, Judd (Moran)**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 12:05 PM**To:** Ken.Barbic@usda.gov**Cc:** Kennedy, Trenton (Moran) <Trenton_Kennedy@moran.senate.gov>; Holmberg, Garrison (Moran) <Garrison_Holmberg@moran.senate.gov>; Said, Morgan (Moran) <Morgan_Said@moran.senate.gov>**Subject:** FW: USDA ERS & NIFA

Ken, I sent the email below to Erin regarding the ERS & NIFA relocation announcement. I received her out of office reply, so I also want to check with you on whether we can get an embargoed heads up on the final location before USDA makes the decision public?

Hope you get some time off this weekend.

Judd

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran)**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 12:00 PM**To:** 'erin.wilson@usda.gov' <erin.wilson@usda.gov>**Cc:** Holmberg, Garrison (Moran) <Garrison_Holmberg@moran.senate.gov>; Kennedy, Trenton (Moran) <Trenton_Kennedy@moran.senate.gov>; Said, Morgan (Moran) <Morgan_Said@moran.senate.gov>**Subject:** USDA ERS & NIFA

Hi Erin, do you know the timeline for announcing the final decision for the relocation of ERS and NIFA? Are you still aiming for a decision by the end of the month?

Also, can we get an embargoed heads up on the final decision before it's released by USDA publicly?

(b)(6) so I want to make sure my colleagues on this email are on your distribution list.

Thanks,

Judd

Judd Gardner

Agriculture Legislative Assistant

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

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From: Lawrence, Will [GO]
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 7:06 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
CC: Pollock, Haley [GO]
Subject: Re: Follow Up

Thanks Rob. We are working on this.

Will Lawrence | Chief of Staff
Kansas Governor Laura Kelly
300 SW 10th Avenue, 259-S | Topeka, KS 66612
Office (b)(6) | Cell (b)(6)
will.lawrence@ks.gov | <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor>

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2019, at 5:21 PM, MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Will – Wanted to follow up on the discussion from earlier.

Please have your state send your best and final offer regarding the relocation of NIFA & ERS to the Ernst and Young contact below by Close of Business Friday, June 7 at 5pm Eastern.

- Steve Tozier, Credits & Incentives Leader
- Office: (b)(6)
- Mobile: (b)(6)
- Email: (b)(6)@ey.com

Thanks,

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
(b)(6)

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From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran)
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran)
CC: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC ; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Also, wanted to mention that the Senators (b)(6) . Just wanted to give you a heads up. Thanks!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
 521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966



From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC <Leon.Striker@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA Scheduler

Leon, we are on our way. Should be out front of USDA soon.

Judd

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 11, 2019, at 5:31 PM, Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov> wrote:

Great, this is helpful, I will make sure he is aware. Thanks again!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
 521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
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From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:14 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>; Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC <Leon.Striker@usda.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

The Senator should plan to arrive at the Jefferson Drive entrance (which is wheelchair accessible) and can take the elevator to the second floor. Leon Striker, from our office of Congressional Relations, is included here and will be downstairs to ensure a smooth entry. If you need it, his cell phone number is (b)(6).

Security will also be aware. Please let me know if you have any other questions or need any other assistance.

Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler
Importance: High

Hi Lauren,

Senator Moran looks forward to the meeting tomorrow at 11:30am. I am reaching out because (b)(6). I just wanted to check on the best entrance to your building tomorrow for the Senator to go to. Any special instructions for when he arrives? Adding Judd to this email as well since he will be staffing the Senator tomorrow.

Thanks and if you need any additional information, please let me know!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

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From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Sounds good. Thank you!

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Thanks, let's plan on 11:30am on June 12.

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily, I think June 12th at 11:30am will be best. Let me know if that will still work for the Senator?

Thanks you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:20 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Good morning Lauren, thanks for these options. The Senator lands at 2:30pm on Monday, so he could get there by 3:00pm, but unfortunately not 2:00pm. If a 3:00pm would work, Monday would be great so we do not have to worry about votes coming up. Otherwise, I think we can make 11:30am on Wednesday, June 12 work. Let me work on moving a lunch event around a bit and will be able to confirm soon. Thanks.

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 7:29 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Would Monday the 10th at 2:00pm or Wednesday the 12th at 11:30am work for the Senator?

Thank you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:38 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, unfortunately the Senator will not be in DC on those dates, he is planning on leaving early afternoon on Wednesday, June 5. Anything earlier in the week that might work for the Secretary? The Senator arrives around 2:30pm on Monday, June 3 and will be here the rest of the afternoon on Monday and all day on Tuesday. He also has pretty good availability the following week as well, leaving DC late in the evening on Thursday, June 13.

Thanks.

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

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From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:32 PM

To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

Would the Senator be available for a meeting at USDA on the afternoon of June 6 or the morning of June 7th?

Thank you,

Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:36 PM

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren,

I wanted to reach back out after the Senator and Secretary Perdue connected this afternoon by phone. The Senator let me know they discussed setting up a meeting at the USDA on the call. It would be to discuss the effect of the trade dispute on farmers, the second round trade aid to producers, and disaster assistance for Kansas flood victims. Thanks for continuing to check on times for this meeting, if there are any times available early June please let me know. I believe the week of June 10 works best for Senator Moran, but can be flexible.

Thanks again!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas

521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966

<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:54 PM

To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>

Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Thanks, Emily. I will follow up as soon as I know more once the team is back from international travel, if that works for you.

Thank you again.
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, thank you for your email. The Senator definitely understands the Secretary's limitations on speaking about the relocation effort. He let me know that he would also like to discuss disaster assistance for Midwest flood victims and the additional round of trade aid payments to farmers. Understand the Secretary is on travel right now, but if there is time in the coming weeks to schedule a meeting on this topic, please let me know. Thanks!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

I have spoken to our team internally about this request. At this stage in the relocation we are undergoing a review of locality sites in order to make a final decision on a locality. Following that will be a GSA competitive bidding process for specific leases in the chosen locality. Accordingly, since the final outcome of a specific building is unknown, we are not in a position to meet with individual members on the specific localities on the final list.

Thanks for your understanding.

Best,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Lauren, thanks for your quick response. The topic is the relocation of USDA ERS and NIFA. Understand that this is a busy month, hopefully the week of May 20th will work. If there are any times that I could hold as possibilities that week, please let me know.

Thanks for your help!

Emily Whitfield

Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Hi Emily,

Thanks for reaching out. Secretary Perdue has an extensive amount of travel this month, but I will let you know as soon as I can about a meeting the week of the 20th. May I ask the topic of the meeting?

Thank you,
Lauren

From: Whitfield, Emily (Moran) <Emily_Whitfield@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Scheduler

Good morning Lauren, I hope you are doing well. Senator Moran is hoping to meet with Secretary Perdue soon at his office. I wanted to check in and see what the Secretary's schedule looks like next week and the week of the 20th to see if it might be possible for them to meet in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks for your help and if you need anything, please let me know.

Best,
Emily Whitfield
Scheduler

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone (202) 224-6521 | Fax (202) 228-6966
<image001.png><image002.png><image003.png><image004.png>

From: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Scheduler

Lauren Sullivan, the Department's Director of Scheduling is cc'ed here.

Thanks!

From: Gardner, Judd (Moran) <Judd_Gardner@moran.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <peter.bachmann@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Scheduler

Hey! Sen Moran is looking to request a meeting with Sec Perdue in the next couple weeks at USDA. Can you send me the contact for Sec Perdue's scheduler for us to reach out to?

Thank you!
Judd

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:42 AM

BCC: rick.pate@agi.alabama.gov; David.W.Schade@alaska.gov; mkillian@azda.gov; wes.ward@agriculture.arkansas.gov; kb.r@cdfa.ca.gov; Kate.Greenberg@state.co.us; bryan.hurlburt@ct.gov; michael.scuse@state.de.us; Nikki.Fried@freshfromflorida.com; gary.black@agr.georgia.gov; Phyllis.Shimabukuro-Geiser@hawaii.gov; celia.gould@agri.idaho.gov; John.Sullivan@illinois.gov; bkettler@isda.in.gov; michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov; Mike.Beam@ks.gov; ryanf.quarles@ky.gov; mikestrain@ldaf.state.la.us; amanda.beal@maine.gov; joe.bartenfelder@maryland.gov; john.lebeaux@state.ma.us; mcdowellg@michigan.gov; Thom.Petersen@state.mn.us; Andy@mdac.ms.gov; directorcc@mda.mo.gov; Benjamin.thomas@mt.gov; Steve.wellman@nebraska.gov; jott@agri.nv.gov; shawn.jasper@agr.nh.gov; douglas.fisher@ag.state.nj.us; JWitte@nmda.nmsu.edu; richard.ball@agriculture.ny.gov; steve.troxler@ncagr.gov; goehring@nd.gov; dorothy.pelanda@agri.ohio.gov; Blayne.Arthur@ag.ok.gov; ataylor@oda.state.or.us; rredding@pa.gov; ken.ayars@dem.ri.gov; hwheathe@scda.sc.gov; Kim.Vanneman@state.sd.us; Charles.Hatcher@tn.gov; sid.miller@texasagriculture.gov; kerrygibson@utah.gov; anson.tebbetts@vermont.gov; bettina.ring@governor.virginia.gov; dsandison@agr.wa.gov; kleonhardt@wvda.us; Bradley.Pfaff@wisconsin.gov; doug.miyamoto@wyo.gov; annabeth.harris@agi.alabama.gov; Lora.Haralson@alaska.gov; alandy@azda.gov; melissa.lambert@agriculture.arkansas.gov; Carol.Tate@cdfa.ca.gov; karen.lover@state.co.us; Nathan.Wilson@ct.gov; lisa.wildermuth@state.de.us; janella.johnson@freshfromflorida.com; Jonna.west@agr.georgia.gov; Gayle.M.Nakamura@hawaii.gov; Beth.sturdevant@isda.idaho.gov; angie.fletcher@illinois.gov; CaWeeks@isda.in.gov; Lexi.Marek@Iowaagriculture.gov; Brittney.Grother@ks.gov; KeithL.Rogers@ky.gov; ssentino@ldaf.state.la.us; Celeste.Poulin@maine.gov; deborah.proud@maryland.gov; cassie.shirk@maryland.gov; alisha.bouchard@state.ma.us; smithbl9@michigan.gov; christina.iliev@state.mn.us; denise@mdac.ms.gov; shantell.taylor@mda.mo.gov; CBay@mt.gov; julie.kuhl@nebraska.gov; a.bartosz@agri.nv.gov; Beth.Kiley@agr.nh.gov; mary.tovar@ag.state.nj.us; (b)(6)@nmda.nmsu.edu; laurie.levine@agriculture.ny.gov; **Rebecca Agnew** Anna.Hayworth@ncagr.gov; jodyreinke@nd.gov; Connie.Ellis@Agri.ohio.gov; Kandi.batts@ag.ok.gov; dmitsch@oda.state.or.us; nmccrone@pa.gov; ckey@scda.sc.gov; Danielle.Hanson@state.sd.us; Tina.D.Rogers@tn.gov; Rebecca.Bustamante@TexasAgriculture.gov; kmathews@utah.gov; Terry.smith@vermont.gov; anna.seymour@vdacs.virginia.gov; Mfinkenbinder@agr.wa.gov; rgothard@wvda.us; Christine.Stamm@wisconsin.gov; pamela.bell@wyo.gov; positive.nelson@doa.vi.gov; cflores@agricultura.pr.gov

Subject: Secretary Perdue Announces Kansas City Region as Location for ERS and NIFA

Hey all – Just wanted to make sure you saw the press release below announcing the relocation of USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the Kansas City Region. USDA conducted a [Cost Benefit Analysis](#) and conservative estimates show a savings of nearly \$300 million nominally over a 15-year lease term on employment costs and rent or about \$20 million per year. USDA will be working with the General Services Administration to secure a permanent lease space through a competitive process in the Kansas City Region.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)



Press Release

Secretary Perdue Announces Kansas City Region as Location for ERS and NIFA Move puts ERS, NIFA closer to customers, expected to save nearly \$300 million nominally

(Washington, D.C., June 13, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the Kansas City Region.

“Following a rigorous site selection process, the Kansas City Region provides a win win – maximizing our mission function by putting taxpayer savings into programmatic outputs and providing affordability, easy commutes, and extraordinary living for our employees,” said Secretary Perdue. “The Kansas City Region has proven itself to be hub for all things agriculture and is a booming city in America’s heartland. There is already a significant presence of USDA and federal government employees in the region, including the Kansas City ‘Ag Bank’ Federal Reserve. This agriculture talent pool, in addition to multiple land-grant and research universities within driving distance, provides access to a stable labor force for the future. The Kansas City Region

will allow ERS and NIFA to increase efficiencies and effectiveness and bring important resources and manpower closer to all of our customers.”

USDA conducted a Cost Benefit Analysis and conservative estimates show a savings of nearly \$300 million nominally over a 15-year lease term on employment costs and rent or about \$20 million per year, which will allow more funding for research of critical needs like rural prosperity and agricultural competitiveness, and for programs and employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets. On top of that, state and local governments offered generous relocation incentives packages totaling more than \$26 million. Finally, this relocation will give USDA the opportunity to attract a diverse staff with training and interest in agriculture. You may click [HERE](#) to view USDA’s Cost Benefit Analysis.

“We did not undertake these relocations lightly, and we are doing it to enhance long-term sustainability and success of these agencies. The considerable taxpayer savings will allow us to be more efficient and improve our ability to retain more employees in the long run. We will be placing important USDA resources closer to many stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from Washington, D.C. In addition, we are increasing the probability of attracting highly-qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. We look forward to this new chapter as we seek to fulfill our motto at USDA, which is to ‘do right and feed everyone,’” added Secretary Perdue.

Secretary Perdue sent [this letter](#) to all USDA employees this morning and will be holding an all hands meeting with ERS and NIFA employees today to discuss the decision, the process, and next steps.

In addition, USDA announced in August the realignment of ERS under the Office of the Chief Economist. While we believe there is considerable synergies and benefits to a realignment, after hearing feedback from stakeholders and Members of Congress, USDA will not move forward with the realignment plans. The agency of ERS will remain under the Research, Education, and Economics mission area.

Background:

USDA announced in August it would undertake the relocations for three main reasons:

1. To improve USDA’s ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, D.C. area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.
2. To place these important USDA resources closer to many of our stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, D.C. area.
3. To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

As part of the rigorous site selection process, USDA narrowed the 136 Expressions of Interest received using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, NIFA, and ERS leadership. The criteria included:

- **Quality of Life:** Subcategory examples include Diversity Index, Residential Housing Costs, Access to Healthcare, and Home and Community Safety Ranking.
- **Costs (Capital and Operating):** Subcategory examples include Commercial Real Estate Costs, CPI Index, and Wage Costs.
- **Workforce:** Subcategory examples include Labor Force Growth Rate, Unemployment Rate, and the Labor Force Population.
- **Logistics / IT Infrastructure:** Subcategory examples include Lodging Availability, Proximity to Customers, and Airport Accessibility.

The top Expressions of Interest were reviewed in detail, and USDA selected a short list of locations offering existing buildings with sufficient space to meet ERS and NIFA requirements.

While 90% of USDA employees are located outside of the D.C. area, ERS and NIFA are the only USDA agencies that don't have representation outside of the national Capital Region (NCR). Upon the relocation announcement, USDA proposed that sufficient staff levels would remain in the NCR to complete mission critical activities that require physical presence in or near Washington, D.C. at the recommendation of customers and stakeholders. In both the cases of ERS and NIFA, leadership reviewed the critical functions and staffing needs within and outside the NCR. Senior ERS and NIFA staff, with input from partner agencies and stakeholders, recommended to Secretary Perdue the critical functions to be retained within the NCR.

Out of NIFA's 315 positions, 294 will relocate while 21 will stay in the NCR. Of the 329 ERS positions, 253 will relocate while 76 will stay in the Washington, D.C. area.

As a result of this move, no ERS or NIFA employees will be involuntarily separated. Every employee who wants to continue working will have an opportunity to do so, although that will mean moving to a new location for most. Employees will be offered relocation assistance and will receive the same base pay as before, and the locality pay for the new location.

USDA will be working with the General Services Administration to secure a permanent lease space through a competitive process in the Kansas City Region. USDA will continue to keep ERS and NIFA employees apprised as updates occur.

###

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:43 AM

BCC: dottie.ochoa@alaska.gov; kip.knudson@alaska.gov; liz.filmore@governor.alabama.gov; adam.thompson@governor.alabama.gov; julia.pickle@governor.alabama.gov; Katie.beck@governor.arkansas.gov; (b)(6)@dudinskyassociates.com; gconger@az.gov; **John Dudinsky**; Katie.wheelermathews@wdc.ca.gov; eve.otoole@hkllaw.com; (b)(6)@gmail.com; eve.lieberman@state.co.us; dan.desimone@ct.gov; sheila.grant@state.de.us; kristi.jones@nc.gov; Stephen.bryant@nc.gov; Katherine.Russo@eog.myflorida.com; (b)(6)@totalspectrumsga.com; **Todd W. Smith**; lisa.m.hiraoka@hawaii.gov; stephanie.groen@iowa.gov; bobbi-jo.meuleman@gov.idaho.gov; Andrew.mitzel@gov.idaho.gov; Pat.Collier@illinois.gov; debbie@indianagr.com; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; leeann.veatch@ky.gov; Erin.MonroeWesley@la.gov; david.garriepy@massmail.state.ma.us; tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov; ariel.judah@maryland.gov; harry.fones@maryland.gov; bethany.beausang@maine.gov; Linda.Pistner@maine.gov; Derek.Langhauser@maine.gov; Michael.Perry@maine.gov; Jeremy.Kennedy@maine.gov; HulsJ1@michigan.gov; SherryD2@michigan.gov; brousseauj@michigan.gov; sasha.bergman@state.mn.us; aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; John.shikles@governor.mo.gov; Scott.McClintock@governor.ms.gov; aschafer@mt.gov; lorea.stallard@nc.gov; Jordan.Whichard@nc.gov; jim.mccleskey@nc.gov; lebachmeier@nd.gov; Lauren.kintner@nebraska.gov; David.Bettencourt@nh.gov; Kirtan.Mehta@nj.gov; courtney.kerster@state.nm.us; (b)(6)@nevadadc.org; Alexander.Cochran@exec.ny.gov; Michael.hall@governor.ohio.gov; Brenton.Temple@Governor.Ohio.Gov; samantha.davidson@gov.ok.gov; Annie.MCCOLAUGH@oregon.gov; msnead@pa.gov; drivera@prfaa.pr.gov; glaws@prfaa.pr.gov; david.ortiz@governor.ri.gov; JMarsh@governor.sc.gov; Kennedy.Noem@state.sd.us; Joshua.Shields@state.sd.us; Chris.Devaney@tn.gov; wes.hambrick@gov.texas.gov; teri.helenese@go.vi.gov; Gordonlarsen@utah.gov; stacey.brayboy@governor.virginia.gov; Sean.Sweeney@governor.virginia.gov; Jason.gibbs@vermont.gov; casey.katims@gov.wa.gov; David.Marten@gov.wa.gov; kate.bukowski@wisconsin.gov; rebecca.d.blaine@wv.gov; buck.mcveigh@wyo.gov; (b)(6); (b)(6); Will.Lawrence@ks.gov; egoode@gov.in.gov; CrJohnston@gov.in.gov; jjankowski@gov.in.gov **Nicholas Pottebaum; Douglas Hoelscher**

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Director
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(b)(6)



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From: Thomas, Katherine (Roberts)
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Ken.Barbic@usda.gov
CC: Glueck, James (Agriculture)
Subject: Letter to Secretary Perdue
Attachments: 6.27.19 ERS NIFA Letter.pdf

Hi Ken,

I wanted to make sure you have a copy of this letter from Senator Roberts to Secretary Perdue regarding the ERS/NIFA relocation. We're dropping it in the mail today, but please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Katherine

Katherine Thomas
Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senator Pat Roberts
109 Hart Senate Building
Phone: (b)(6)



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

FINANCE

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ETHICS

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June 27, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your support of the Greater Kansas City Region as you determine the new location for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). I write to express my appreciation and my strong support for the selection of a final site in my home state of Kansas.

The proposed Kansas locations for ERS and NIFA offices offer favorable tax rates for USDA employees, nationally recognized educational opportunities, and convenient access to award-winning healthcare services. The capital and operating expenses in Kansas could reduce costs for both agencies over time, and employee salaries in Kansas would stretch further due to advantageous personal income tax rates. Schools in Kansas consistently rank among the top in the nation, with numerous high quality options within close proximity to potential ERS and NIFA headquarters sites.

Agriculture is the heart of what we do in Kansas and plays a fundamental role in the culture of our communities. With approximately 5,000 USDA employees and contractors in Kansas City, the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility in Kansas, and the broader Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, these agencies join a leading community in the agriculture industry. It is vital that we work together to ensure the agricultural research mission at ERS and NIFA is supported and enhanced as these agencies relocate to Kansas and join other important agriculture assets in the heartland.

Kansas is the ideal new home for these two agencies and their employees. The proposed locations offer an outstanding quality of life, with affordable homes, short commute times, and easy access to rural, suburban, and urban lifestyles. I know agriculture stakeholders and the broader Kansas community will offer a warm welcome to these agencies and their employees. Thank you for all you do on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts
United States Senator

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Willard, Aaron; Bilger, David
CC: Adam Nordstrom; Pollock, Haley [GO]; Lawrence, Will [GO]; Hahn, Kayla; Knodell, Robert
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

Thank you all for getting back to me so fast. Please see call in information below. Again, the call will start at 1:45 **eastern** and go for a half hour or so.

Call in Number - 888-844-9904

Access Code – (b)(6)

Thanks again,

Rob

From: Willard, Aaron <Aaron.Willard@governor.mo.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 4:37 PM
To: Bilger, David <David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov>
Cc: Adam Nordstrom <(b)(6)@vikingnav.com>; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Hahn, Kayla <Kayla.Hahn@governor.mo.gov>; Knodell, Robert <Robert.Knodell@governor.mo.gov>
Subject: Re: Relocation Call

I am on a trade trip in Australia right now, so managing the time difference may be hard but please proceed with the call.

I am copying Kayla Hahn and Robert Knodell from our team in case they could join. I should be able to get a readout from them .

Thank you for reaching out to us to provide an update.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2019, at 5:51 AM, Bilger, David <David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov> wrote:

Yes, that time works for me.

Thank you

From: Adam Nordstrom <(b)(6)@vikingnav.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 2:43 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Willard, Aaron <Aaron.Willard@governor.mo.gov>; Bilger, David <David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Subject: Re: Relocation Call

I am available and would love to be included.

Thank you.

Adam Nordstrom
 Washington, DC Director - State of Kansas
 202-258-2084

On 8/6/19 2:58 PM, MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC wrote:

Perfect. David/Aaron – would that work for you all as well?

From: Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 2:34 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>;
aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Lawrence, Will [GO]
 <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Cc: Adam Nordstrom <(b)(6)@vikingnav.com>
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

Works on my end. Also looping in Adam.

--

Haley Pollock | Director of Policy
 Kansas Governor Laura Kelly
 300 SW 10th Avenue, 264-W
 Topeka, KS 66612
Haley.Pollock@ks.gov
 Office (785) 368-8500 | Cell (785) 581-4733

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 1:25 PM
To: Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov;
David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Sorry – should have clarified...*eastern*.

From: Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 2:24 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>;
aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Lawrence, Will [GO]
 <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

Sure thing, but do you mean 1:45 central or eastern time?

--

Haley Pollock | Director of Policy
 Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

300 SW 10th Avenue, 264-W
Topeka, KS 66612
Haley.Pollock@ks.gov
Office (785) 368-8500 | Cell (b)(6)

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 1:22 PM
To: aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Subject: Relocation Call

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Hey all – I wanted to reach out to see if you all would be interested in jumping on a call with our relocation team tomorrow at 1:45 regarding the ERS/NIFA move to Kansas City. I figured it would be a good time to provide both of your offices with an update on where we are at in the process right now and give you all the ability to ask our team any questions you may have.

Please let me know if you are interested and I can circulate the call in information.

Thanks,

Robert MacGregor
Director
Intergovernmental and External
Affairs
United States Department of
Agriculture
(b)(6)

<image001.jpg>

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From: Arnold, Rhonda [GO]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 7:37 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Relocation Call

Thank you Sir.

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 5:35:18 PM
To: Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Rhonda – Please see call in information below. The call will be from 1:45-2:15 **Eastern**.

Call in Number: 1-888-844-9904,
Passcode: (b)(6)

From: Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 3:15 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Cc: Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Relocation Call

Mr. MacGregor,

Will Lawrence is interested, please send me the call information and I will put this on his calendar. Thank you!

Rhonda Arnold | *Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff*

[Office of Governor Laura Kelly](#)

(b)(6) (cell)

(b)(6) (office)

Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov

From: Lawrence, Will [GO]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>
Subject: FW: Relocation Call

Will Lawrence | *Chief of Staff*
Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 259-S | Topeka, KS 66612

Office: (b)(6) | will.lawrence@ks.gov | <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor/>

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 1:22 PM

To: aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Pollock, Haley [GO] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>

Subject: Relocation Call

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey all – I wanted to reach out to see if you all would be interested in jumping on a call with our relocation team tomorrow at 1:45 regarding the ERS/NIFA move to Kansas City. I figured it would be a good time to provide both of your offices with an update on where we are at in the process right now and give you all the ability to ask our team any questions you may have.

Please let me know if you are interested and I can circulate the call in information.

Thanks,

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
(b)(6)

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 4:12 PM
To: Beam, Mike [KDA]
Subject: RE: ERS & NIFA's current presence in Kansas

Secretary Beam – Just tried to give you a call. Would be happy to talk with you about this if you have a minute.

My cell is (b)(6) .



Robert MacGregor
Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
(b)(6)

From: Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 1:52 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: ERS & NIFA's current presence in Kansas

Hi Rob,
Kansas Secretary of Commerce David Toland and myself have contemplated a personal visit to the core of ERS and NIFA staff that have set up shop in Kansas City. We thought it might be good to give them an official welcome and determine if they have questions regarding the region...especially Kansas.
Would this be appropriate?
If so, who should we call?
Thanks,
Mike Beam
Kansas Secretary of Agriculture

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 11:24 AM

BCC: bhuston@casscounty.com; montyk@casscounty.com; jimmyo@casscounty.com; marilyn.sanders@kcmo.org; bcobbins@wycokck.org; directorcc@mda.mo.gov; Mike.Beam@ks.gov; Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov; Brittney.Grother@ks.gov; shantell.taylor@mda.mo.gov; SamiJo.Freeman@mda.mo.gov; heather.lansdowne@ks.gov; (b)(6)@vikingnav.com; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; aaron.willard@governor.mo.gov; David.Bilger@governor.mo.gov; Will.Lawrence@ks.gov Adam Nordstrom
Subject: Secretary Perdue Announces Lease for ERS and NIFA in downtown Kansas City, MO

Hey all – Just wanted to make sure you all saw the press release below announcing that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has signed a lease for permanent office space at 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri to serve as the new home for USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Robert MacGregor

Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)



Secretary Perdue Announces Lease for ERS and NIFA in Kansas City, MO

(Washington, D.C. – October 31, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a lease for permanent office space at 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri to serve as the new home for USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

“We’re excited to announce ERS and NIFA’s new, permanent home in downtown Kansas City, Missouri and provide clarity on commute times and work-life balance for our employees,” said Secretary Perdue. “Both agencies have been hard at work in the Beacon Center after relocating to the region over a month ago, and signing this lease is an important next step to facilitate their long-term efficiency, effectiveness, and service to our customers. The region is not only a hub for agriculture in America’s heartland, but is also already proving to be a diverse talent pool in proximity to many land-grant and research universities. I’m confident Kansas City will continue to be a great home for the future of ERS and NIFA.”

Background:

90 percent of USDA employees are located outside of the D.C. area, and prior to their relocation, ERS and NIFA were the only USDA agencies that did not have representation outside of the National Capital Region (NCR). While headquarters for both agencies remain in the NCR, portions of ERS and NIFA relocated to the Kansas City region on September 30, 2019. Since that time, both agencies have been housed in space currently utilized by USDA and will remain in that space until the build-out of the permanent office is completed. There is already a significant presence of USDA and federal government employees in the region, including the Kansas City ‘Ag Bank’ Federal Reserve.

USDA worked with GSA to secure a permanent lease space through a competitive process in the Kansas City region. With this new lease in Kansas City, the federal government will realize significant savings which can be attributed to lower lease costs in the Kansas City region and to improved efficiencies resulting in a smaller physical footprint realized through the co-location of the two agencies. Additional savings were realized due to the commitments of local and state stakeholders, including the State of Missouri; the Missouri Partnership; the Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri (“PortKC”); the City of Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas City Area Development Council; the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City; Kansas City Power and Light/Energy Company; and the University of Missouri.

In August 2018, USDA announced it would undertake the relocation of ERS and NIFA for three main reasons:

1. To improve USDA’s ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and

- it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, D.C. area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.
2. To place these important USDA resources closer to many of our stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, D.C. area.
 3. To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

On June 13, 2019, Secretary Perdue announced the Kansas City region as the selected location. As part of the rigorous site selection process, USDA narrowed the 136 Expressions of Interest received using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, ERS, and NIFA leadership. The criteria included assessments of quality of life, capital and operating costs, workforce, and logistics and IT infrastructure. For additional information on site selection, please click [here](#).

Out of 329 total ERS positions, 76 positions remain in D.C. while 253 positions are in Kansas City. Out of 344 total NIFA positions, 21 positions remain in D.C. while 323 are in Kansas City.

###



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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 7:34 AM
To: Lawrence, Will [GO]
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

I don't believe so – I only reached out to Secretary Beam.

From: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 9:11 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

No problem. We understand. I'm double checking with our Secretary of Commerce. Did you reach out to him initially? I don't think I saw him on the thread.

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 7:00:16 PM
To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Will - sorry it isn't working out but we have appreciated working with you all.

Will anyone else in the Govs cabinet attend?

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From: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 6:12:21 PM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

Hey Rob,

As you and I previously discussed, Governor Kelly will be in DC on the 15th and unfortunately will be unable to attend.

Will Lawrence | *Chief of Staff*

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 259-S | Topeka, KS 66612

Office: (b)(6) | will.lawrence@ks.gov | <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor/>

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA]

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 2:51 PM

To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Hi Rob,

I plan to attend on behalf of the Kansas Dpt of Ag.

Kelsey

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 2:23:06 PM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Hey all – Just wanted to follow up on this to see if you or your bosses will be able to attend as we are trying to lock in RSVPs.

Thanks,

Rob

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 12:20 PM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; Rhonda.d.arnold@ks.gov; Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov; Brittney.Grother@ks.gov

Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Event

Hey all – I believe I have spoken with each of your offices individually, but we have now confirmed that we will do an event at the new ERS/NIFA facility on November 15th. We are still working out the specifics for the event, but do have some information to share...

Date: Friday November 15th

Time: 11:00am- 12:00pm

Location: 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri

I will make sure to follow up with you all once we have more details.

Please let me know if you or your boss plans on attending and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)

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From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 12:52 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Rob
Thank you for setting up the meeting on short notice. I appreciate it. I look forward to meeting you on Thursday.

Kelsey

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 5:32:24 PM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

We are all good to go for Thursday at 4pm.

Please come to the Whitten Building (1400 Jefferson Dr SW) and enter through the entrance facing the National Mall. You will go through security and check in at the visitor's desk (please be sure to bring a government ID. Once you check in, feel free to give me a call – (b)(6) – and I will come down and get you.

Rob

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:04 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

My thoughts are in regards to the recently announced commercial hemp regulations and what a USDA ran program might look like in lieu of a state program.

Kelsey

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 8:25:39 AM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for the quick response. What did you want to discuss in regards to hemp? That will help me figure out who to reach out to.

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:24 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

Rob,
I am the assistant secretary.

Also, I am in D.C. on Thursday for a couple brief meetings. Is there any chance that I could meet with someone to talk about hemp sometime after 4pm? I know it will be getting late in the day, not to mention that it is short notice, but I thought I'd give it a try.

Kelsey

Kelsey Olson
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Assistant Secretary

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:51 AM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Kelsey! What is your title again?

Rob

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 3:51 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Hi Rob,
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Kelsey

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 2:23:06 PM
To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget]

<Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 12:20 PM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov; Rhonda.d.arnold@ks.gov; Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov; Brittney.Grother@ks.gov

Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Event

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Date: Friday November 15th

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Location: 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri

I will make sure to follow up with you all once we have more details.

Please let me know if you or your boss plans on attending and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Robert MacGregor

Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)



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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:57 PM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA]
CC: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Hey Kelsey - I will be in another meeting when you get here, but Zach Jacobs will be able to meet you and walk you over. He is cc'ed and his cell is (b)(6).

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:32:24 PM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

We are all good to go for Thursday at 4pm.

Please come to the Whitten Building (1400 Jefferson Dr SW) and enter through the entrance facing the National Mall. You will go through security and check in at the visitor's desk (please be sure to bring a government ID. Once you check in, feel free to give me a call – (b)(6) – and I will come down and get you.

Rob

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:04 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

My thoughts are in regards to the recently announced commercial hemp regulations and what a USDA ran program might look like in lieu of a state program.

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 8:25:39 AM
To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Thanks for the quick response. What did you want to discuss in regards to hemp? That will help me figure out who to reach out to.

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:24 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

Rob,
I am the assistant secretary.

Also, I am in D.C. on Thursday for a couple brief meetings. Is there any chance that I could meet with someone to talk about hemp sometime after 4pm? I know it will be getting late in the day, not to mention that it is short notice, but I thought I'd give it a try.

Kelsey

Kelsey Olson
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Assistant Secretary

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:51 AM

To: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>

Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Thanks Kelsey! What is your title again?

Rob

From: Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 3:51 PM

To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Hi Rob,

I plan to attend on behalf of the Kansas Dpt of Ag.

Kelsey

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 2:23:06 PM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Hey all – Just wanted to follow up on this to see if you or your bosses will be able to attend as we are trying to lock in RSVPs.

Thanks,

Rob

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 12:20 PM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Haley.Pollock@ks.gov;
Rhonda.d.arnold@ks.gov; Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov; Brittney.Grother@ks.gov

Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Event

Hey all – I believe I have spoken with each of your offices individually, but we have now confirmed that we will do an event at the new ERS/NIFA facility on November 15th. We are still working out the specifics for the event, but do have some information to share...

Date: Friday November 15th

Time: 11:00am- 12:00pm

Location: 805 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri

I will make sure to follow up with you all once we have more details.

Please let me know if you or your boss plans on attending and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Robert MacGregor



Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)

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From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 6:03 PM
To: Grother, Brittney [KDA]; Lawrence, Will [GO]; Beam, Mike [KDA]; Olson, Kelsey [KDA]
CC: David Toland [KDC]; Patty Clark [KDC]
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

She's already on the list for the event. The list of folks is for the tour at the beginning of the event and it is principals only.

From: Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 4:51 PM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>
Cc: David Toland [KDC] <David.Toland@ks.gov>; Patty Clark [KDC] <Patty.Clark@ks.gov>
Subject: Re: ERS/NIFA Event

Rob,

Assistant Secretary Kelsey Olson plans to attend on behalf of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Can you please add her to the run of show?

Sincerely,
 Brittney

Brittney Grother
 Executive Assistant
 Kansas Department of Agriculture
 1320 Research Park Drive
 Manhattan, KS 66502

(b)(6)

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 1:30 PM
To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>
Cc: David Toland [KDC] <David.Toland@ks.gov>; Patty Clark [KDC] <Patty.Clark@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

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Thanks Will – As promised, please see the built out run of show below.

Secretary Toland – Please let me know if you have any other questions or need any more information.

Thanks,

Rob

- 11:15 AM: Arrive at new ERS/NIFA Office Space.
- *Greeted by Governor Parson, Senator Blunt, and Tim Cowden.*
- 11:25 AM: Begin tour of new ERS/NIFA Offices.
- *Led by Tim Cowden and Chris Hartley*
Mike Parson, Governor, Missouri
Roy Blunt, Senator, Missouri
Roger Marshall, Congressman (KS-1st)
Quinton Lucas, Mayor, Kansas City
Tim Cowden, President and CEO, Kansas City Area Development Council
Chris Hartley, Senior Advisor, USDA REE
Chris Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture
Blake Hurst, President, Missouri Farm Bureau
Rob Dixon, Director, Missouri Department of Economic Development
David Toland, Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce
- 11:40 AM: ERS/NIFA Location Announcement Program.
- Run of Show**
- Mayor Quinton Lucas gives welcome and introduces Congressman Roger Marshall.
 - Congressman Roger Marshall gives remarks and introduces Senator Roy Blunt.
 - Senator Roy Blunt gives welcome and introduces Governor Mike Parson.
 - Governor Mike Parson gives remarks and introduces THE SECRETARY.
 - THE SECRETARY gives remarks and concludes program.
- *All principals give remarks standing from podium*
- 12:00 PM: Press gaggle.
- 12:15 PM: Depart event.

From: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 11:13 AM
To: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>
Cc: David Toland [KDC] <David.Toland@ks.gov>; Patty Clark [KDC] <Patty.Clark@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: ERS/NIFA Event

Looping in Secretary David Toland for the Department of Commerce to this thread. He will be attending on behalf of Governor Kelly.

Will Lawrence | Chief of Staff
Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

USDA-19-1369-A-000071

000071

300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 259-S | Topeka, KS 66612

Office: (b)(6) | will.lawrence@ks.gov | <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor/>

From: MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 11:20 AM

To: Lawrence, Will [GO] <Will.Lawrence@ks.gov>; Beam, Mike [KDA] <Mike.Beam@ks.gov>; Pollock, Haley [Budget] <Haley.Pollock@ks.gov>; Arnold, Rhonda [GO] <Rhonda.D.Arnold@ks.gov>; Olson, Kelsey [KDA] <Kelsey.Olson@ks.gov>; Grother, Brittney [KDA] <Brittney.Grother@ks.gov>

Subject: FW: ERS/NIFA Event

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I will make sure to follow up with you all once we have more details.

Please let me know if you or your boss plans on attending and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Robert MacGregor

Director
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture

(b)(6)



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