

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Letter of Support for USDA Meat and Poultry Revolving Loan Fund
Application of CSRA Rural Lending Authority to establish Georgia Meat and Poultry
Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We are pleased to write this letter encouraging full and fair consideration of CSRA Rural Lending Authority's (d/b/a CSRA Business Lending) grant application to establish the Georgia Meat and Poultry Revolving Loan Fund through the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP).

Georgia's livestock producers of beef, pork, and poultry are in urgent need of more local processing options as demand for their products has skyrocketed due to the disruptions in global food supply chains. The demand for domestically produced beef, pork, and poultry brought on by the global pandemic, and now exacerbated by global economic conditions, has magnified the importance of growing the number of processing facilities in our state. Given Georgia is the national leader in poultry production and is rapidly growing in both beef and pork production, we believe our state is an essential link in the food supply chain. The USDA Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program will be critical in helping to launch some of these desperately needed facilities.

CSRA Business Lending and its affiliated lending companies are non-profit SBA, EDA, and USDA lenders that have for many years focused their efforts of job creation and economic development on rural Georgia. They are Georgia's largest intermediary lenders in USDA's regular Intermediary Lending Program and have a 32-year track record of successfully operating that program. Their application has garnered support from entities such as the Georgia Bankers Association Agriculture Committee, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture Extension Office, which have all pledged their coordinated support to assist in the establishment and delivery of this program in Georgia.

We urge full and fair consideration of the application put forward by CSRA to be Georgia's delivery source for this vital program. Thank you for your support of the beef,

pork, and poultry industry in our state. We look forward to working with you to continue to address the nation's food supply chain issues.

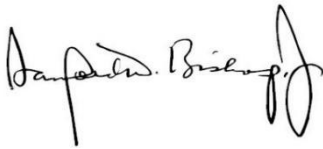
Sincerely,



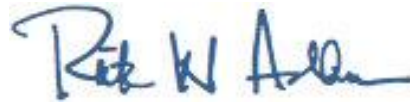
Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress