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NARA Applauds Bipartisan Congressional Letter Urging EPA, USDA, and FDA To Include Rendering in National Food Waste Strategy

ALEXANDRIA, VA, May 9, 2024 – A bipartisan group of eight Senators yesterday sent a [letter](#) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Robert Califf expressing concern that rendering was not included in the *Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics*.

“For centuries, rendering has been at the forefront of a circular economy. We urge EPA, USDA, and FDA to ensure that rendering is included as part of our nation’s food loss and waste reduction strategy. In addition, we request that EPA update its Wasted Food Scale to reflect the importance of rendering as a management strategy for wasted food,” the letter states. The Senators went on to say “we are concerned that this draft strategy, with rendering omitted, will not accelerate progress towards the 2015 national goal to reduce food loss and waste by 50% by 2030. Instead, the strategy will only serve to incentivize other recycling technologies at the expense of the rendering industry.”

Kent Swisher, President and CEO of the North American Renderers Association (NARA), issued the following statement in response to the letter:

“NARA commends Senators Marshall, Bennet, and Moran, and this bipartisan group of senators for recognizing rendering’s longstanding role in reducing our overall food production footprint. The North American rendering industry has been upcycling otherwise lost and wasted food since the 1800’s. We are the original recyclers and were a part of the circular economy even before the term was coined. We urge the EPA and USDA to acknowledge rendering’s important role in FLW and how it can assist in reaching their reduction targets. We don’t see a path to meet the stated goal of reducing food loss and waste in the U.S. by 50% by 2030 without rendering, the largest FLW recycler.”

In addition to Senators Marshall, Bennet, and Moran, the letter was also signed by Senators Amy Klobuchar, John Boozman, Debbie Stabenow, Alex Padilla, and Tina Smith.

NARA was joined in support for the letter by the American Feed Industry Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, Association of American Feed Control Officials, Clean Fuels Alliance America, Meat Institute, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Chicken Council, National Milk Producers Federation, National Turkey Federation, and US Poultry and Egg Association. NARA would like to thank those industries for standing up for rendering on this important issue.

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in Mexico and Hong Kong, and has market consultants in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.