



MEMORANDUM:

TO: All Governors
FROM: Governor Terry Branstad, Governor Jack Markell
Governor Terry McAuliffe, Governor Matt Mead
DATE: May 6, 2016
RE: Invitation to join the Governors' Food & Farm Partnership

We are pleased to invite you to join a bipartisan "caucus" of Governors and leading members of the food and agriculture industry as part of "The Governors' Food & Farm Partnership."

This group plans to expand communication between Governors and representatives from the food value chain. Agriculture and food production may not be the top industry in every state, but it is a major industry in almost every state. Most Americans don't know where their food comes from or the important role that agriculture plays in state economies. Governors work with representatives of the food and agriculture sectors, but it is rare to have an opportunity to communicate and work with stakeholders from *across* the food value chain. This opportunity helps us understand the issues that impact each step of bringing food from the field to the dinner plate. The issues that affect food, consumers and our economies are on our desks. These issues are not only relevant in traditional farm-belt states. They are headline news across the country. Increasingly Governors are being asked to take positions that have a significant impact on our agricultural producers, consumers and economies.

Stakeholders, representing a diverse cross-section of the food industry, are coming together to enhance communication across the food chain and with governors. Our mission is to share information and best practices on critical issues, to highlight state-based policy innovations, and to provide new resources to help governors. We have agreed to help lead this effort as co-chairs through 2017.

We plan to meet several times over the year and ask you to join us. We have launched a website to share best practices and policy material at food-farm.org. We believe this group can make a difference. We hope you join us and look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact Craig Pattee at cpattee@agenda-global.com for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Handwritten signature of Governor Terry E. Branstad in blue ink.

Governor Terry E. Branstad
State of Iowa

Handwritten signature of Governor Jack Markell in black ink.

Governor Jack Markell
State of Delaware

Handwritten signature of Governor Matthew H. Mead in blue ink.

Governor Matthew H. Mead
State of Wyoming

Handwritten signature of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink.

Governor Terence R. McAuliffe
Commonwealth of Virginia

