

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to give you our strongest endorsement of Layne R. Bangerter for nomination as Under Secretary for Agriculture – Natural Resources and Environment. Layne's real-world experience, public service record and Western common sense make him an outstanding candidate for this position.

You are likely already familiar with Layne from his work as the Trump Campaign Director of Idaho, but our association with Layne goes back more than a decade when he began working for Senator Crapo as Senate State Director for Agriculture. Over the years, we developed an implicit trust in Layne. He represented Idaho well to the agriculture and natural resources community in Idaho, and brought his extensive background into his review on the various circumstances we regularly encounter in these fields.

Layne is one of the most personable individuals you will ever encounter. His network extends beyond geographic and policy-related circles, and helps inform his thought processes. He has friends in every corner of the globe. But that friendly exterior doesn't prevent him from providing critical analysis and expert review of challenging and controversial issues. He is a problem-solver who looks for collaborative ways to resolve conflict, but he also recognizes when it is necessary to forge ahead with the best solution available.

His experience running his own farm/ranch gives him a much-needed perspective on how government edicts filter down to the actual ground. You have to search far and wide for someone with as much experience and common sense regarding natural resources, environment and agriculture issues. Layne knows these issues because he has lived with them for decades; he understands them through a government perspective because of his professional work in the Senate and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. You fully understand the value of having people like Layne—those with real-life experience—in positions that will craft policy in your Administration.

We urge you to give Layne serious and thoughtful consideration for the USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Our country will benefit significantly with Layne helping advocate for commonsense and workable solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Crapo".

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Risch".

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator