

DEAN HELLER
NEVADA



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 3, 2017

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Layne Bangerter to serve as the next Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Bangerter, where he made clear to me his strong knowledge of and passion for solving the issues we face in the West, including catastrophic wildfires, wildlife management, and balancing the multiple-use statuses of our public lands. He also expressed his commitment to protecting the Lake Tahoe region, given that most of the lands in this region are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Bangerter is an experienced farmer and rancher with strong ties to the West. I believe his nomination to this position will further underscore your commitments to these issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Heller", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Heller
United States Senator

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,

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in black ink.

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in black ink.

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

April 24, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

I write to recommend Layne Bangerter to serve as the next Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Environment and Natural Resources.

For more than 15 years, Layne has worked for Senator Mike Crapo as the State Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment. In this role, he has represented Senator Crapo in all capacities, regularly speaking with constituents, managing staff, and conducting the critical on-the-ground work needed to inform policy at the national level.

To this point, Layne has been involved in every facet of the legislative process—from crafting legislation and writing statements to offering vote recommendations and engaging with the press. His legislative efforts, in particular, have been met with substantial success. For example, Layne took a leading role in overseeing passage of the Owyhee Public Land Management Act, a collaborative bill that resolved longstanding land management conflicts. Layne has also advanced several Second Amendment bills, in addition to drafting portions of the Energy and Conservation Titles of the 2008 Farm Bill. From start to finish, Layne knows how to get a bill passed into law.

Prior to his work in the legislative branch, Layne served for nearly two decades as a Supervisory Wildlife Biologist within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In this capacity, he recruited, organized, and managed the Wildlife Services agency within USDA, authored numerous NEPA documents, and participated in Interagency Management Teams.

Layne's scientific background and his substantial policy experience will be a tremendous asset to the USDA. Over the years, I have seen firsthand the results of Layne's legislative accomplishments, and I am confident that he will continue to succeed as a dedicated member of your administration.

I am certain that Layne will continue to thrive in the Department of Agriculture, which is why I highly recommend him to serve as the next Under Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
U.S. Senator

MICHAEL S. LEE
UTAH

ALLYSON BELL
CHIEF OF STAFF

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4404

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY

ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

May 3, 2017

Dear Secretary Perdue,

When we met prior to your confirmation, we discussed the need to improve the health of our forests, empower users of federal land, and begin to once again harvest timber in a responsible way. Layne Bangerter is the man to do just this, which is why I am proud to recommend him for the job of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

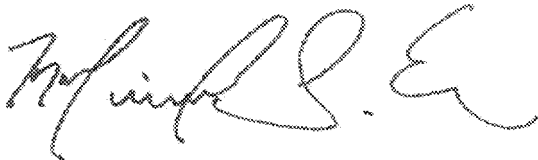
For too long the Department of Agriculture has overlooked the dominant role it plays in western states. As you know, the Forest Service owns more than 8 million acres of land in Utah. Hailing from Idaho, Mr. Bangerter is sure to reorient the Department westward. Such an undertaking will not be easy, but is necessary, and is one Mr. Bangerter is capable of successfully executing.

Mr. Bangerter holds a degree in forest and wildlife management. He is a dedicated public servant having already worked for the Department of Agriculture and spending the past decade assisting Sen. Crapo as his Director of Natural Resources and Agriculture. Mr. Bangerter is an avid outdoorsman, farmer, and rancher. In short, he understands the demands of the Department and those who depend on it for their economic livelihood.

Mr. Bangerter has the experience to identify the Department of Agriculture's faults, the vision to chart a new path for the agency, and the determination to see these changes take hold.

I hope you will make him your under secretary.

Sincerely,



Senator Michael S. Lee