



Rural Development

May 11, 2017

Office of the Deputy
Under Secretary

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TO: All Rural Development Employees

FROM: Roger Glendenning
Acting Deputy Under Secretary

SUBJECT: Changes to the Rural Development Organizational Structure

This morning, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be reorganized to help carry out President Trump's request that USDA improve customer service and be more accountable to American taxpayers.

USDA will realign Rural Development to report directly to the Secretary. As you know, we are the lead Federal agency driving investment in critically needed infrastructure, housing, business, and utilities development in rural America. The change will provide additional visibility and support for our mission. It will allow us to align our work with new Administration initiatives to increase investment in rural infrastructure, and other essential services like healthcare and schools, that make rural America a great place to live.

The plan elevates USDA Rural Development and calls for Agency heads and other selected senior executives to report directly to the Secretary. It eliminates the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

The realignment will not change the work done by employees, or how it is done. Business will continue as usual and you will report to your existing management structure. We are working closely with the Secretary's office to ensure that this transition is smooth and transparent. USDA will provide more details regarding the plan within the coming days.

Having USDA Rural Development report to the Secretary is a high honor, and will put us in a position to provide excellent service to our customers. What remains constant is our mission and commitment to the future of rural communities.

Thank you for your attention, and for all you do on behalf of USDA Rural Development and rural America.