Midwest
Council on Agriculture

November 12, 2026

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Jeffries and Members of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Midwest Council on Agriculture, I am writing to express our strong support for Representative Shontel Brown to serve as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee in the 120th Congress.

The Midwest Council is an organization that brings together farmers, agribusiness leaders, commodity organizations, cooperatives, and others who care deeply about the future of agriculture and rural America. Through our work with current and former members of Congress, including former House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, we have a firsthand appreciation for the importance of steady, practical leadership on the Agriculture Committee. We believe Representative Brown has demonstrated those qualities throughout her service on the committee, including in her role as Vice Ranking Member.

Over the past several years, the Congresswoman has made a genuine effort to engage with agricultural stakeholders and learn firsthand about the issues affecting farmers, ranchers, processors, and rural businesses. She has shown a willingness to listen, ask thoughtful questions, and work through difficult issues with people who may not always share the same perspective. Those qualities matter, especially in agriculture, where lasting solutions are built through trust, relationships, and collaboration.

Farm country is facing significant economic pressure. Low commodity prices, rising input costs, workforce shortages, and market uncertainty are weighing heavily on producers and the farm economy. Addressing these issues will require leadership focused on practical results. We believe she understands the importance of maintaining a strong crop insurance program,

supporting agricultural research, expanding market opportunities, investing in rural infrastructure, and ensuring that federal farm policy works for producers of all sizes.

We also value her understanding that agriculture does not exist in isolation. Strong farms support strong rural communities, and strong rural communities remain essential to our nation's economy and food security. Her ability to bring together voices from urban and rural America will help build the broad coalition needed to advance meaningful agricultural legislation.

Just as importantly, she has demonstrated a commitment to working across party lines. The Agriculture Committee has long been one of the places in Congress where members have found common ground in service to farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and consumers. We believe she is well positioned to continue that tradition and to lead the committee in a way that reflects its longstanding bipartisan character.

The Midwest Council on Agriculture would welcome the opportunity to work with Representative Brown as Chair of the Agriculture Committee. We are confident she would provide thoughtful, accessible, and effective leadership during a critical time for American agriculture.

We respectfully encourage your support for Representative Shontel Brown as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Perry Aasness, President
Midwest Council on Agriculture