

Washington, D.C. 20250

May 30, 2025

THE HONORABLE ADAM B. SCHIFF United States Senate 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schiff,

Thank you for your May 14, 2025, letter, cosigned by colleagues, regarding nine, California, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) field offices in Bakersfield, Blythe, Los Angeles, Madera, Mt. Shasta, Oxnard, Salinas, Woodland, and Yreka. I understand your concerns and USDA is dedicated to ensuring those communities have the resources and personnel needed to continue serving the American people.

As you are aware, the General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal agency with jurisdiction, custody, and control over many Federal leasehold interests. GSA acts as the main leasing agent for the Federal Government and is typically in charge of all communications with lessors regarding the status of leases. USDA is aware of the termination notices that have been sent by GSA to the field offices in question.

My team and I have been in communication with GSA and have asked that GSA rescind the termination notices for Bakersfield, Blythe, Los Angeles, Madera, Oxnard, Salinas, Woodland, and Yreka. As of the date of this letter, we have confirmed that GSA has rescinded the termination notices for Bakersfield, Blythe, Los Angeles, and Salinas, and we will continue to work with GSA to ensure that the remaining termination notices are rescinded. Furthermore, while GSA has sent a termination notice to the lessor of the Forest Service lease in Mount Shasta, USDA is still in discussions with GSA concerning the viability of continuing that lease or if the services provided out of that office can be performed in a more suitable location.

USDA supports optimizing building capacity and consolidating underutilized offices to reduce inefficiencies, while continuing to prioritize frontline services for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

If you have further questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. I have sent a similar letter to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Brooke L. Rollins

Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture

CC: General Services Administration