

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

Our nation's agricultural industry plays a vital role in providing our nation's food supply as well as the global food chain. An integral part of the domestic economy, the agricultural sector supports more than 21 million American jobs. Therefore, as the United States begins to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico, we strongly urge you to prioritize the interests of the U.S. agricultural industry.

Since the implementation of NAFTA, U.S. agricultural exports have more than quadrupled from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38 billion in 2015. The growth in U.S. agricultural exports is largely attributable to the removal of significant trade barriers among NAFTA countries allowing American farmers to more easily reach new markets resulting in increased U.S. revenue. For instance, the U.S. cattle industry has benefited from expanded market access through the development of two \$1 billion export markets in Canada and Mexico for American beef products.

Largely small business owners, U.S. farmers often lack the financial resources to anticipate and respond to harmful government policies that negatively impact their farming operations. Recently, for example, American dairy and poultry producers have been threatened by Canada's trade-distorting non-tariff policies, as well as steep tariffs and quotas on U.S. dairy and poultry products. These protectionist policies have threatened the vitality of America's dairy and poultry industries across the country.

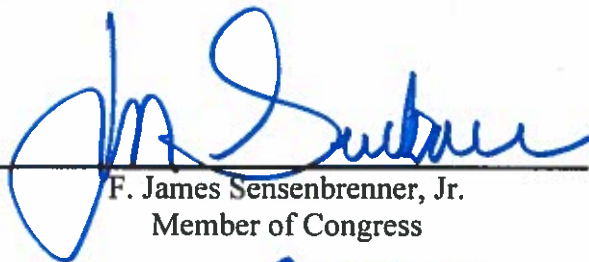
We, therefore, welcome the opportunity to renegotiate NAFTA in order to address these discrepancies and other harmful trade policies in order to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural industry. Concomitantly, it is equally imperative that we preserve all the relative trade gains NAFTA has provided to American farmers' and ranchers' during the renegotiation process to allow for the U.S. agricultural sector to compete globally on a level playing field.

Thank you, in advance, for recognizing the importance of trade to the economic security of our agricultural industry as you begin the renegotiation process of NAFTA. Our farmers and the local communities they support will depend on a new trade deal that prioritizes the interests of U.S. agricultural producers while seeking to further expand U.S. market share in both Canada and Mexico.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Smucker Ron Kind Mike Kelly
Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Young
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



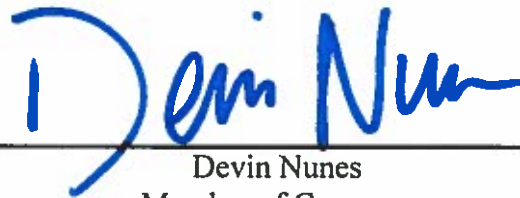
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



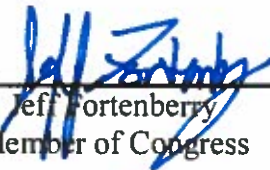
Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello
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Kristi Noem
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
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Austin Scott
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Steve King
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Ralph Abraham, MD
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Raul Labrador
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Patrick Meehan
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Lynn Jenkins, CPA
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Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



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Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
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Rick W. Allen *Tom Marino*

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
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Dave Loeb sack

Dave Loeb sack
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Adrian Smith

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