

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol H-232
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol H-204
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the farmers, ranchers, and other members of the U.S. food and agriculture industry, we express our support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We are thankful for the engagement and support of Congress throughout the negotiation process and ask that you continue this engagement to approve the TPP this year. If faithfully implemented, TPP will help level the playing field for U.S. exports and create new opportunities for us in the highly competitive Asia-Pacific region.

The TPP is critical to the livelihood of the U.S. food and agriculture sector because it will create conditions that encourage economic growth and increased employment in rural areas and throughout the supply chain. Exports are fundamental to the success of the agricultural industry because 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States and 20 percent of U.S. farm income is from exports. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, TPP will boost annual net farm income in the United States by \$4.4 billion. USDA estimates that every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports in 2014 provided approximately 7,550 American jobs throughout the economy. According to USDA, U.S. food and agricultural exports reached a record \$150 billion in 2014, supporting 1,132,000 full-time civilian jobs, which included 808,000 jobs in the non-farm sector. The agricultural export surplus helped to offset some of the non-agricultural trade deficit.

While some tariffs remain, the overall TPP agreement successfully tears down many tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that currently hinder U.S. competitiveness, and prevent us from meeting consumer demand for high-quality U.S. food and agricultural products throughout the Asia-Pacific region. TPP will allow us to be more competitive in the rapidly growing Asia-Pacific market. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said, "At the end of the day, TPP is about opportunity. The agreement will advance U.S. economic interests in a critical region that accounts for nearly 40 percent of global GDP."

The TPP will not only remove barriers for our exports to 11 key Asia-Pacific countries, but it will also provide much needed leverage on future market access opportunities in potential TPP members such as Taiwan, the Philippines and Indonesia. Furthermore, TPP provides high-standard trade rules, allowing the United States to lead in establishing market-driven and science-based terms of trade that will directly benefit the U.S. food and agriculture industry in our efforts to compete and thrive in this important

economic region. If we do not lead, we will simply fall behind as our competitors aggressively work to establish alternative trade agreements that place their agricultural interests at an advantage. According to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, “Delaying the launch of TPP by even a year would represent a \$94 billion permanent loss, or opportunity cost, to the U.S. economy.” With net farm income at its lowest level since 2002, the costs of inaction are too high for us to ignore. We must act now.

The TPP presents a valuable opportunity for U.S. agriculture; one that we cannot afford to miss. TPP is important for the future of rural America, and we urge passage of TPP during this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

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| Agri Beef Co. | CoBank |
| Agribusiness Council of Indiana | Colorado Association of Wheat Growers |
| Alabama Cattlemen’s Association | Colorado Cattlemen's Association |
| Alabama Poultry & Egg Association | Colorado Corn Growers Association |
| Alabama Soybean and Corn Association | Colorado Livestock Association |
| American Farm Bureau Federation | ConAgra Foods, Inc. |
| American Malting Barley Association | Corn Producers Association of Texas |
| American National CattleWomen | Corn Refiners Association |
| American Peanut Council | Crop Life America |
| American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc. | Deere & Company |
| American Soybean Association | The DeLong Company |
| Arizona Cattle Feeders’ Association | Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc. |
| Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association | DuPont Pioneer |
| Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association | Florida Cattlemen’s Association |
| Arkansas Soybean Association | Florida Peanut Producers Association |
| Bel Brands USA | Georgia Cattlemen’s Association |
| Blue Diamond Growers | Georgia Poultry Federation |
| Brewers Association | Georgia-Florida Soybean Association |
| BUNGE North America | Global Cold Chain Alliance and International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses |
| California Association of Wheat Growers | Grain and Feed Association of Illinois |
| California Association of Winegrape Growers | Great Plains Canola Association |
| California Cattlemen’s Association | Greater Omaha Packing Company |
| California Dairies, Inc. | Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council |
| California Grain and Feed Association | The Hershey Company |
| California Poultry Federation | Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc. |
| Cargill, Incorporated | Hormel Foods |
| CHS Inc. | Mississippi Poultry Association |
| Clemens Food Group | Mississippi Soybean Association |
| Idaho Cattle Association | Missouri Cattlemen’s Association |
| Idaho Grain Producers Association | Missouri Corn Growers Association |
| Illinois Beef Association | Missouri Soybean Association |
| Illinois Corn Growers Association | Montana Grain Growers Association |
| Illinois Soybean Association | Montana Stockgrowers Association |
| Independent Bakers Association | |
| Indiana Beef Cattle Association | |

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| Indiana Corn Growers Association | National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance |
| Indiana Dairy Producers | National Association of State Departments of Agriculture |
| Indiana Soybean Alliance | National Association of Wheat Growers |
| International Dairy Foods Association | National Barley Growers Association |
| Iowa Cattlemen's Association | National Beef Packing Company |
| Iowa Corn Growers Association | National Cattlemen's Beef Association |
| Iowa Pork Producers Association | National Chicken Council |
| Iowa Soybean Association | National Confectioners Association |
| JBS USA | National Corn Growers Association |
| J.R. Simplot Company | National Grain and Feed Association |
| Kansas Association of Wheat Growers | National Oilseed Processors Association |
| Kansas Corn Growers Association | National Potato Council |
| Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association | National Pork Producers Council |
| Kansas Livestock Association | National Renderers Association |
| Kansas Soybean Association | National Sorghum Producers |
| Kentucky Cattlemen's Association | National Sunflower Association |
| Kentucky Poultry Federation | National Turkey Federation |
| Kentucky Small Grain Growers | National Wooden Pallet and Container Association |
| Kentucky Soybean Association | Nebraska Cattlemen's Association |
| The Kraft Heinz Company | Nebraska Corn Board |
| Louisiana Cattlemen's Association | Nebraska Corn Growers Association |
| Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association | Nebraska Grain and Feed Association |
| Louisiana Soybean Association | Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board |
| Maryland Grain Producers Association | Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers |
| Michigan Agri-Business Association | Nebraska Pork Producers Association |
| Michigan Bean Shippers | Nebraska Soybean Association |
| Michigan Cattlemen's Association | Nebraska Wheat Board |
| Michigan Corn Growers Association | Nebraska Wheat Growers Association |
| Michigan Pork Producers Association | Nevada Cattlemen's Association |
| Michigan Soybean Association | New York Beef Producer's Association |
| Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association | New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association |
| Minnesota AgriGrowth Council | North American Export Grain Association |
| Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers | North American Meat Institute |
| Minnesota Corn Growers Association | North Carolina Cattlemen's Association |
| Minnesota Grain and Feed Association | North Carolina Pork Council |
| Minnesota Pork Producers Association | North Carolina Poultry Federation |
| Minnesota Soybean Growers Association | Tennessee Cattlemen's Association |
| Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association | Tennessee Soybean Association |
| Mississippi Cattlemen's Association | Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association |
| North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association | Texas Cattle Feeders Association |
| North Carolina Soybean Producers Association | Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association |
| North Dakota Corn Growers Association | Texas Poultry Federation |
| North Dakota Grain Dealers Association | |
| North Dakota Grain Growers Association | |

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| North Dakota Soybean Growers Association | Texas Seed Trade Association |
| North Dakota Stockmen's Association | Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association |
| Northern Canola Growers Association | Texas Soybean Association |
| Northwest Chicken Council | Texas Wheat Producers Association |
| Northwest Horticultural Council | Tyson Foods, Inc. |
| Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc | United Fresh Produce Association |
| Ohio AgriBusiness Association | U.S. Apple Association |
| Ohio Cattlemen's Association | US Canola Association |
| Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association | US Dry Bean Council |
| Ohio Pork Producers Council | U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association |
| Ohio Soybean Association | U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc. |
| Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association | U.S. Meat Export Federation |
| Oklahoma Sorghum Association | U.S. Pecan Growers Council |
| Oklahoma Soybean Association | U.S. Premium Beef |
| Oregon Cattlemen's Association | USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council |
| Oregon Wheat Growers League | USA Poultry & Egg Export Council |
| Owensboro Grain Company | Utah Cattlemen's Association |
| Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed | Virginia Cattlemen's Association |
| Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association | Virginia Grain Producers Association |
| Pet Food Institute | Virginia Peanut Growers Association |
| The Poultry Federation | Virginia Pork Council |
| Produce Marketing Association | Virginia Poultry Federation |
| Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association | Virginia Soybean Association |
| Seaboard Foods | Washington Association of Wheat Growers |
| Smithfield Foods | Washington Cattle Feeders Association |
| South Carolina Cattlemen's Association | Washington Cattlemen's Association |
| South Carolina Soybean Association | Washington Grain Commission |
| South Dakota Association of Cooperatives | West Virginia Cattlemen's Association |
| South Dakota Cattlemen's Association | Western Growers Association |
| South Dakota Corn Growers Association | Wine Institute |
| South Dakota Dairy Producers | Wisconsin Agri-Business Association |
| South Dakota Grain & Feed Association | Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association |
| South Dakota Soybean Association | Wisconsin Corn Growers Association |
| South Dakota Wheat Inc. | Wisconsin Soybean Association |
| Southern Peanut Farmers Federation | Wyoming Stock Growers Association |
| Sweetener Users Association | |

cc: Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means
Congressman Sandy Levin (D-MI), Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways & Means
Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance