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,

Agri Beef Co.
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Alabama Cattlemen’s Association
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Malting Barley Association
American National CattleWomen
American Peanut Council
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Soybean Association
Arizona Cattlemen’s Association
Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association
Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association
Arkansas Soybean Association
Bel Brands USA
Blue Diamond Growers
Brewers Association
BUNGE North America
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Cattlemen’s Association
California Dairies, Inc.
California Grain and Feed Association
California Poultry Federation
Cargill, Incorporated
CHS Inc.
Clemens Food Group
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Independent Bakers Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
CoBank
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Corn Growers Association
Colorado Livestock Association
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Corn Producers Association of Texas
Corn Refiners Association
Crop Life America
Deere & Company
The DeLong Company
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc.
DuPont Pioneer
Florida Cattlemen’s Association
Florida Peanut Producers Association
Georgia Cattlemen’s Association
Georgia Poultry Federation
Georgia-Florida Soybean Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance and International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Great Plains Canola Association
Greater Omaha Packing Company
Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council
The Hershey Company
Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.
Hormel Foods
Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association
Mississippi Poultry Association
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Montana Grain Growers Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Soybean Alliance
International Dairy Foods Association
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
JBS USA
J.R. Simplot Company
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Kentucky Small Grain Growers
Kentucky Soybean Association
The Kraft Heinz Company
Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Louisiana Soybean Association
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Cattlemen’s Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Beef Packing Company
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association
Nebraska Corn Board
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
Nevada Cattlemen’s Association
New York Beef Producer's Association
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association
North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Poultry Federation
Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Texas Poultry Federation
| 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