

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

February 6, 2017

United States President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The U.S. food and agricultural sector looks forward to working with your Administration to create new jobs and spur economic growth for all Americans.

The Asia-Pacific region is the world's largest market for food and agriculture and is expected to grow rapidly in the years ahead. Reducing and eliminating tariffs and other restrictive agricultural policies in this region will help American workers in our sector compete, creating an opportunity to supply Asian markets with high-quality food and agricultural goods.

We hope your Administration will create such opportunities for our sector by deepening U.S. economic engagement in this critical region while responding to the Asia-only regional trade agreements being negotiated by our foreign competitors. While many in our sector strongly supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we hope future agreements build upon the valuable aspects of that agreement to increase our market access in the Asia-Pacific. We welcome an opportunity to work with your Administration to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers, processors and food companies do not fall behind our foreign peers in this vitally important economic region.

Economic growth in America's heartland is inextricably linked to the long-established productivity of U.S. food and agriculture—an industry that is a true American success story. The food and agricultural industry from farm to fork employs more than 15 million Americans. The U.S. food and beverage industry alone represents 12 percent of all U.S. manufacturing jobs, making it the largest employer in the manufacturing sector. Our industry has improved the nutrition and economic wellbeing of generations of American families and is one of our nation's most efficient and competitive industries.

America's food and agriculture sector is poised to grow internationally, building upon its well-deserved reputation for high quality products, trusted brands and constant innovation. Our ability to continue to create jobs and support economic growth in rural America depends on maintaining and increasing access to markets outside the United States through existing and future trade agreements. With more than 95 percent of our potential customers living outside our borders, expanding access to international markets is essential for our future success. The Asia-Pacific region is one such market that is critical if we are to attain our future export potential.

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We are proud of our ability to create the safest, most innovative, abundant, and affordable food supply in the world. We look forward to working with your team to preserve and expand upon the gains our sector has already achieved by promoting U.S. food and agriculture at home and abroad and expanding market access for our sector.

Sincerely,

Agri Beef Co.
Agricultural Products Extension, LLC
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Pulse Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Atalanta Corporation
Aurora Cooperative
Beachner Grain, Inc.
Berthold Farmers Elevator LLC
Big River Rice and Grain
Brewers Association
California Cherry Export Association
California Fresh Fruit Association
Campbell Soup Company
Cargill, Incorporated
CHS Inc.
Colorado Premium Foods
ConAgra Brands, Inc.
Corn Refiners Association
Crossroads Cooperative Association
Demeter Lp
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
Hop Growers of America
International Dairy Foods Association
JBS USA
J.D. Heiskell and Company
Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Leprino Foods Company
Lortscher Agri Service Inc.
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Agricultural Commodities
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Soybean Association
Musco Family Olive Co
Nagel Farm Service Inc.
National Association of State Departments of
Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nidera North America, LLC
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Pet Food Institute
Pride Ag Resources
Pro Cooperative

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Seaboard Corporation
Smithfield Foods
Southern United States Trade Association
Superior Farms
Sweetener Users Association
Team Marketing Alliance LLC
Texas Grain and Feed Association
Tyson Foods, Inc.
United Grain Corporation
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice

U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
U.S. Wheat Associates
Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association
Wheeler Brothers Grain Company, LLC
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association