

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 Cattle Feeders’ 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 Poultry Association
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Cattlemen’s Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Montana Grain Growers Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association

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	

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