

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer:

As Members of Congress representing districts that are home to America's chicken farmers and processors, we write to thank you for your work to expand market access around the world for U.S. chicken. Chicken has been a genuine success story of those efforts, and we are especially grateful that you prioritized U.S. chicken access in your recent negotiations with China. We urge your continued attention to the ongoing tariff and non-tariff barriers that China imposed on U.S. chicken, which have kept our industry far short of its full export potential.

As recently as 2022, as a direct result of the HPAI Regionalization Agreement, part of the Phase One Trade Agreement reached during the first Trump Administration term, China was the second-largest export market for U.S. chicken, receiving more than 622,000 metric tons of product valued at over \$1.1 billion. Today, the ledger falls well short of those figures, with only 93,978 metric tons shipped in 2025, valued at \$291 million. China's noncompliance regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) regionalization and relisting is costing American chicken producers a market opportunity worth more than \$800 million annually.

In 2015, China banned all U.S. chicken imports because of an outbreak of HPAI in the United States. When market access was regained, a Regionalization Agreement was

signed in March 2020 as part of the Phase One Trade Agreement, designed to limit such disruptions. The agreement stipulated that if HPAI was detected, a statewide ban would be imposed on all products from the state of detection, with imports and exports resuming 90 days post-virus elimination at all impacted premises in that state.

At the onset of the current HPAI outbreak in 2022, the General Administration of Customs China (GACC) followed the terms the Regionalization Agreement and lifted restrictions as agreed upon. However, in August 2022, the GACC reinstated the bans for all states that had been previously lifted. By April 2026, 44 states were ineligible to export raw chicken products to China – accounting for nearly 98 percent of all registered U.S. chicken facilities.

Following President Trump's visit to China in May 2026, it was announced that China would resume imports of raw chicken products from states designated by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as free of HPAI, and restrictions on 17 states were lifted. APHIS believed China would resume adherence with terms of the Regionalization Agreement and lift restrictions within five business days of receiving a state's closeout report. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

As of August 2026, raw chicken products from 21 states remain banned, representing 34 percent of total U.S. chicken production.

We were very pleased to see that GACC lifted restrictions for eight states in recent weeks, and we greatly appreciate your work with your Chinese counterparts to lift these restrictions and resume trade.

Several additional prominent chicken-producing states will soon meet the provisions of the Regionalization Agreement to have restrictions lifted, including Iowa, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. Provided there are no additional HPAI detections in these states, they would be eligible to ship raw chicken products soon after China receives closeout reports from APHIS, if China follows the terms for lifting restrictions.

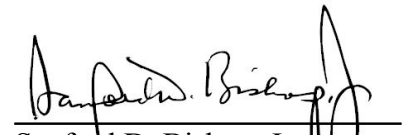
We respectfully urge you to raise this issue with your Chinese counterparts at every opportunity to insist that China fully comply with the HPAI Regionalization Agreement, respond promptly to APHIS closeout reports, and lift the remaining restrictions. No action would result in a greater increase in U.S. poultry exports than China lifting HPAI

restrictions from eligible states. Maintaining robust market access is pivotal to the continued success and prosperity of America's chicken farmers and processors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

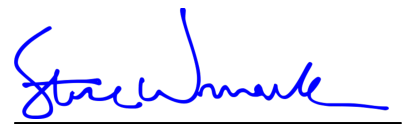

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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Member of Congress

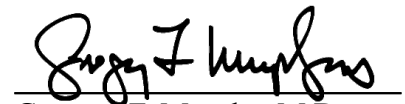

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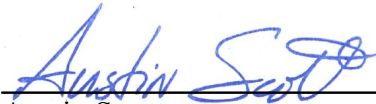

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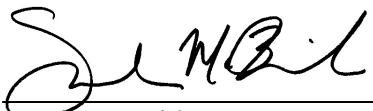
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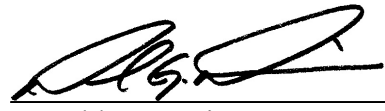
Rick W. Allen
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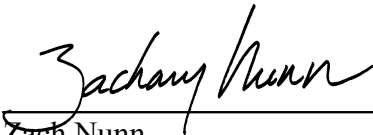
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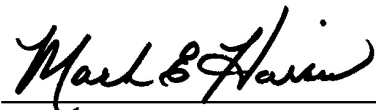
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