

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack:

We support continued efforts to improve market access for U.S. agriculture exports as part of an ambitious set of trade negotiations, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). While we support such endeavors, we are concerned Japan, a member of TPP, has not yet made a comprehensive offer on market access as it relates to agriculture products.

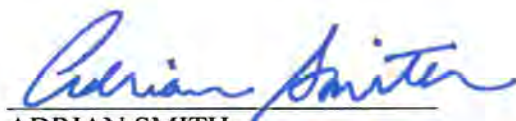
TPP negotiations set an important standard for future trade agreements, and a positive outcome on agriculture products could mean billions in future exports and hundreds of thousands of jobs. This success will only be realized, however, if Japan and other U.S. trading partners agree to address trade barriers comprehensively, without broad exclusions for sensitive products such as those submitted by Japan.

Not only would special treatment for sensitive agriculture products be inconsistent with U.S. requests in previous trade agreements and assurances provided when Japan was invited to join TPP, but also could undermine the careful balance of concessions the other eleven economies have achieved. If Japan is allowed exemptions, other TPP countries could demand similar treatment and the entire agreement would be at risk of unraveling.

We commend previous efforts to expand market access with Japan, including completion of a revised export agreement for certain agriculture products last year. We now seek assurances from you that the U.S. will not close TPP negotiations with Japan's participation unless Japan has agreed to eliminate tariff and non-tariff trade barriers to agriculture.

We share your commitment to high-level, 21st Century trade agreements, and look forward to working with you to ensure all market access concerns are adequately addressed moving forward.


Sincerely,



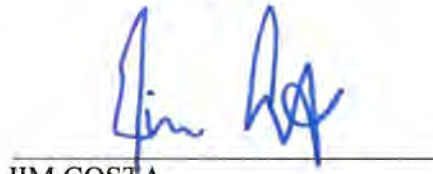
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