

**U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade**  
**North America Food & Agriculture Trade Coalition**

April 26, 2017

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations, working collectively through the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade that represents the diverse food and agricultural sector, urge prompt confirmation of Robert Lighthizer as U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). Our industry sectors support more than 15 million jobs from coast-to-coast and constitute the single largest sector of the U.S. manufacturing industry.

The Trade Expansion Act of 1962 gives USTR a central role in developing and coordinating U.S. international trade policy and leading trade negotiations with other countries. Given the Trump Administration's plans to notify Congress soon of its intent to "renegotiate" the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Senate confirmation of Mr. Lighthizer is particularly urgent. His confirmation is an essential step in enabling the U.S. government to put in place its team to engage robustly in trade negotiations on NAFTA and with Asia-Pacific nations to further enhance U.S. economic growth and job creation.

Throughout his confirmation process, Mr. Lighthizer continuously highlighted the importance of international trade to the U.S. food and agriculture community. Specifically, with respect to NAFTA renegotiation, Mr. Lighthizer went on record stating, "In updating the NAFTA, we will seek to improve our trade relationship with Canada and Mexico in order to secure the greatest possible benefits for U.S. workers farmers, ranchers, and businesses." His confirmation hearing was permeated with similar statements espousing his and the Administration's commitment to build on the success of existing accords, like NAFTA, and to reengage in pursuing other trade agreements to further grow U.S. food and agriculture exports.

As the Administration and Congress work together to identify constructive opportunities to modernize NAFTA and reengage in pursuing other important trade accords, we urge the Senate to expeditiously move on confirming Mr. Lighthizer as the USTR. Simply put, U.S. national interests are at stake. U.S. trade interests are imperiled by delay, during which foreign competitors are ramping up efforts to supplant U.S. leadership and take away U.S. market share while nervous U.S. foreign customers seek out non-U.S. suppliers to meet their import requirements to ensure basic food security for their people.

To enable the United States to reengage on trade to benefit all Americans, including U.S. food and agriculture producers and agribusinesses, it is of utmost importance to confirm Mr. Lighthizer as USTR immediately. We look forward to working with Mr. Lighthizer, other Administration officials and Congress to develop and implement a coherent and effective U.S. trade policy that continues to promote America's food and agriculture producers and exporters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AG Processing, Inc.

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Almond Alliance of California

American Bakers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Peanut Council  
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.  
American Potato Trade Alliance  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Archer Daniels Midland Company  
Arizona Grain, Inc.  
Attebury Grain  
Bartlett Grain Company  
Beachner Grain, Inc.  
Big River Rice and Grain  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Blue Diamond Growers  
Bunge  
California Blueberry Commission  
California Cherry Export Association  
California Dairies, Inc.  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Grain and Feed Association  
Campbell Soup Company  
Cargill, Incorporated  
Central Missouri AGRIService, LLC  
Central Valley Ag Cooperative  
CHS Inc.  
CoMark Grain Marketing L.L.C.  
Corn Refiners Association

The Cranberry Institute  
Crossroads Cooperative Association  
Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative  
D. E. Bondurant Grain Co. Inc.  
Degesch America, Inc.  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Elanco Animal Health  
Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc.  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Gavilon  
Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)  
Grain Craft  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
Hardwood Federation  
Hilmar Cheese Company  
Hop Growers of America  
Independent Bakers Association  
Ingredion Incorporated  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (IARW)  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
Louis Dreyfus Company North America  
Lortscher Agri Service, Inc.  
MCT Dairies, Inc.  
Mead Johnson Nutrition  
Meat Import Council of America  
Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Inc.  
Michigan Shippers  
Midwest Food Products Association  
Milk Specialties Global  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
National Association of Egg Farmers  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Restaurant Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
  
North American Export Grain Association  
North American Meat Institute

North American Millers' Association  
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
Organic Trade Association  
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association  
Pet Food Institute  
Pride Ag Resources  
Pro Cooperative  
Produce Marketing Association  
Purina Animal Nutrition  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
SNAC International  
South Dakota Grain and Feed Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Sweetener Users Association  
Tate & Lyle Americas  
Team Marketing Alliance  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Trugman Nash LLC  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United Grain Corporation  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Poultry and 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. Hide, Skin and Leather Association

U.S. Meat Export Federation

US Rice Producers Association

U.S. Wheat Associates

Vita Plus

Western Peanut Growers Association

Wheeler Brothers Grain Company, LLC

WineAmerica

Wine Institute

Wisconsin Agri-Business Association