

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

As you know, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) holds significant potential for American agricultural exports, and we support the Administration's goal to establish a high-standard, 21st Century agreement to promote new market opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region. With this goal in mind, we urge you to ensure the strongest possible sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in the TPP agreement.

America's farmers and ranchers are among the most productive and efficient in the world, producing high quality agricultural products sought by consumers across the globe. However, time and again our producers are confronted with import barriers in foreign markets which are spurious and not science-based. While the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules on SPS measures help mitigate this problem, more must be done.

The TPP negotiations offer the United States an opportunity to go beyond the WTO rules to create more robust SPS measures. We applaud your effort to seek a forward-looking agreement, and urge you to support effective and enforceable rules which will strengthen the role of science in the international marketplace.

Thank you for your leadership on U.S. trade policy. We look forward to continuing to work with you to craft an ambitious agreement.

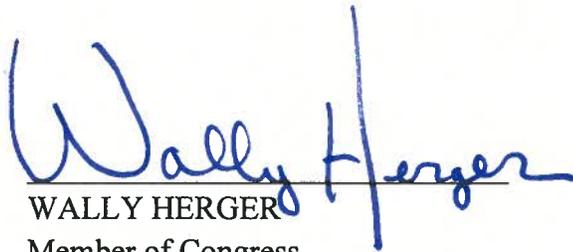
Sincerely,



ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



PATRICK J. TIBERI
Member of Congress



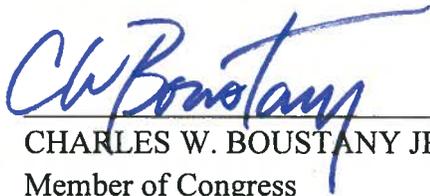
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DAVID G. REICHERT
Member of Congress



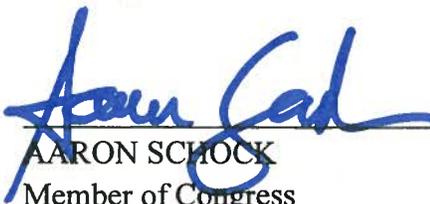
GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress



CHARLES W. BOUSTANY JR.
Member of Congress



JOHN BARROW
Member of Congress



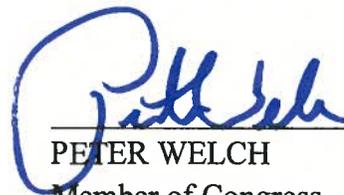
AARON SCHOCK
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JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



KENNY MARCHANT
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KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



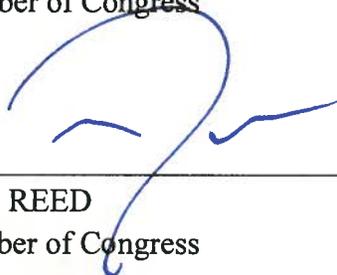
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



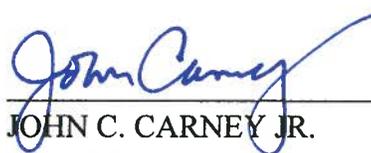
RICK BERG
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WILLIAM L. OWENS
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TOM REED
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JOHN C. CARNEY JR.
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DOC HASTINGS
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THOMAS E. PETRI
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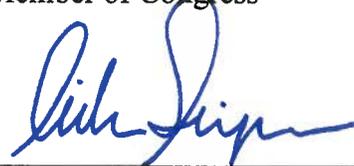
SAM GRAVES
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JO ANN EMERSON
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TOM LATHAM
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MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
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GREG WALDEN
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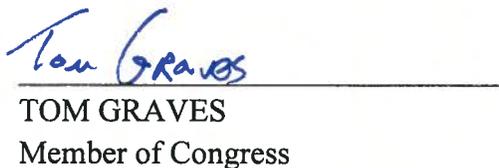
RANDY NEUGEBAUER
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K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress



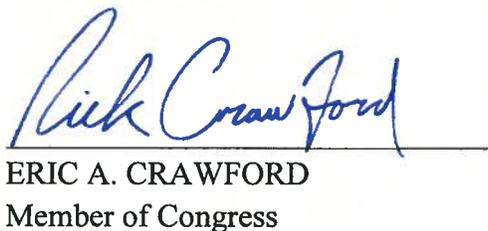
MICHELE BACHMANN
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TOM GRAVES
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SEAN P. DUFFY
Member of Congress



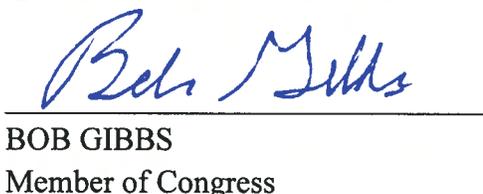
ERIC A. CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



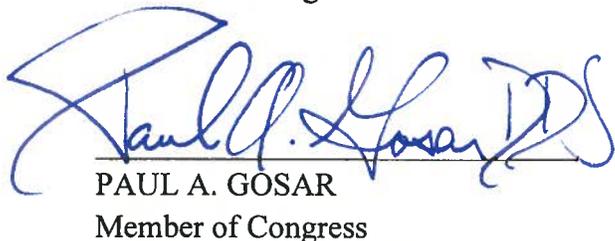
RENEE L. ELLMERS
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CORY GARDNER
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



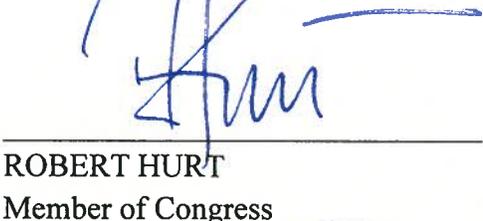
PAUL A. GOSAR
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS
Member of Congress



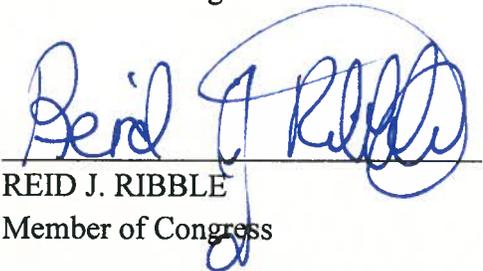
VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



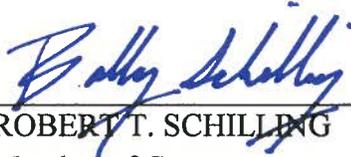
ROBERT HURT
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ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress



REID J. RIBBLE
Member of Congress



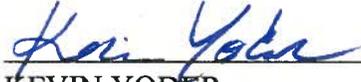
ROBERT T. SCHILLING
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture