

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2014

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

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

Dear Secretary Vilsack, Secretary Pritzker, and Ambassador Froman:

Thank you for your efforts to promote the White House Rural Council "Made in Rural America" export and investment initiative, which is slated to include a series of regional forums to promote growing rural exports and assisting rural companies in accessing consumers inside and outside the United States. As co-chair of the Congressional Rural Caucus and a Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, I share your commitment to ensuring businesses and individuals can access new market opportunities, and would like to encourage you, as part of this initiative, to host one of the forums in the Third District of Nebraska.

While accounting for only 15 percent of the total U.S. population, rural America produces nearly a quarter of the world's food supply. In addition to agriculture, mining, transportation, and recreation, service and retail industries are contributing to the rural evolution and enhancing quality of life in many areas, including Nebraska. Along with hosting a forum in the Third District, I would like to personally invite you to Nebraska's Third District to see firsthand the changing face of rural America. Such experience could ensure policies in Washington reflect the concerns and unique challenges facing rural communities.

Ninety-five percent of consumers live outside the United States, and account for 80 percent of the world's purchasing power. Assisting rural companies in accessing these markets would boost our local economies and ultimately benefit consumers. Nowhere are folks more innovative than in Nebraska. Producers, manufacturers, and service providers are constantly finding new, better, more efficient ways of doing things.

International trade supports more than 80,000 jobs in my District. By embracing new technologies and techniques to produce an abundance of crops and livestock, Nebraska producers are opening the door to increased trade and helping to feed the world. Further, we are home to world leaders in areas like research, technology, manufacturing, and financial services. Nebraska is the global leader in center pivot manufacturing,

products which are being used to grow food security while improving water and land management in the developed and developing world alike; and is home to a global leader in medical technology, supplying healthcare institutions, researchers, laboratories, and industry around the world.

A forum in Nebraska not only would be valuable to Nebraska exporters, but also would highlight the importance of looking to new markets and future opportunities to grow our rural economy, enhance American interests, and promote consumer choice around the world.

I look forward to working together to fulfill an ambitious U.S. trade agenda and would happily make the full resources of my staff available to assist in arranging a "Made in Rural America" forum in the Third District of Nebraska.

Sincerely,



ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress