



August 14, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U. S. Department of Commerce
Room 5858
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Room 200-A
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0001

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
Ambassador
U. S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Mr. John M. Mille
Assistant U. S. Trade Representative for the
Western Hemisphere & Chief Negotiator,
NAFTA
Office of the U. S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Ross, Secretary Perdue, Ambassador Lighthizer, and Chief Negotiator Mille:

As you know, the United States is the world's largest exporter of farm products with agriculture exports accounting for 33 percent of U.S farm income in 2016. Since the passage of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have increased four-fold with these two countries representing the second and third largest global markets for U. S. agricultural exports, respectively.

Furthermore, it also has been estimated that U. S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico account for nearly one-fourth of all U. S. employment attributed to merchandise trade with those countries.

Because of the importance of agricultural exports to both the farm and U.S. economies, we, the deans/administrators of our nation's public and land-grant colleges of agriculture, strongly support the continued robust export of U. S. agricultural products to Mexico and Canada facilitated by NAFTA. We also urge our trade negotiators to seek opportunities to expand such trade in your upcoming discussions with representatives from Canada and Mexico. Agricultural exports are critical to rural America and the whole country.

Please feel free to contact us directly through Eddie Gouge at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU).

Sincerely,

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Jay T. Akridge
Chair
Board on Agriculture Assembly, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Ian L. Maw
Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

cc: The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
and Forestry, United States Senate
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry, United States Senate
The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman, Committee on Finance, United States Senate
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, United States Senate
The Honorable Bob Corker, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, United States
Senate
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin, Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate
The Honorable Mike Conaway, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
U. S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
U. S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U. S. House of
Representatives
The Honorable Eliot Engel, Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U. S.
House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin P. Brady, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, U. S. House
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The Honorable Richard E. Neal, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means,
U. S. House of Representatives