

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2014

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lucas, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Peterson and Ranking Member Cochran,

As you are aware, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued the final rule to amend existing regulations for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) on May 23, 2013. This rule, intended to bring existing COOL rules into World Trade Organization (WTO) compliance has drawn the threat of retaliatory tariffs from both Canada and Mexico on various agriculture products and commodities. As Representatives of districts across our country which could be negatively impacted by the list of retaliatory tariffs, we urge you to work towards a compromise in the context of the Farm Bill Conference Committee on COOL regulations which will satisfy WTO obligations and provide an assurance from Canada and Mexico that the listed products will not be affected.

The list of potential retaliatory tariffs from the Canadian Minister of International Trade and Minister of Agriculture was issued on June 7, 2013. The list, which includes a wide range of agriculture products, meats, foodstuffs and furniture, could have a wide spread impact on the economy in our districts. As Canada presents a valuable trading partner for many of the products listed on the retaliatory tariffs list, the modification of export capabilities for those products could have effects on the entire industry. Without an assurance from Canada that the COOL regulations will not trigger retaliatory tariffs, the industries listed by Canada face a serious threat. Similar threats have been issued by the Mexican government following the USDA announcement. Mexico is currently our third largest trading partner representing \$224 billion in U.S. exports; increased tariff rates would have a crippling effect on many of these outputs.

As you work towards agreements during the Farm Bill Conference Committee, we encourage you to take legislative action to modify existing COOL regulations from USDA so as to ensure their WTO compliance and bring relief from Canada and Mexico's retaliatory tariffs list. As our districts could be adversely affected by the listed retaliatory tariffs, we urge you to consider the impact they will have on certain agricultural and finished products across the United States.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



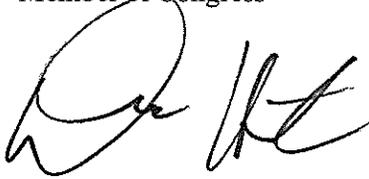
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Doc Hastings
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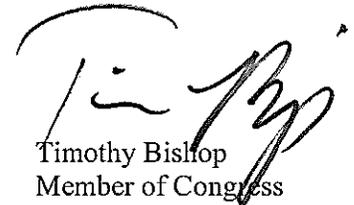
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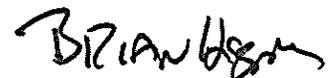
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



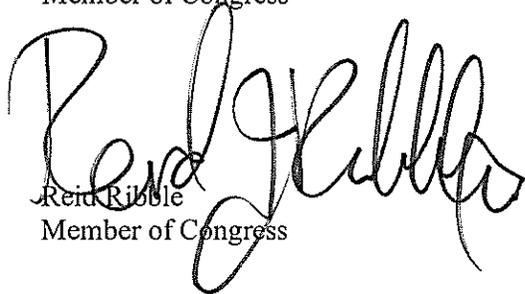
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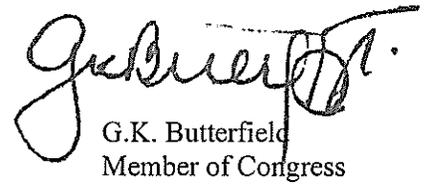


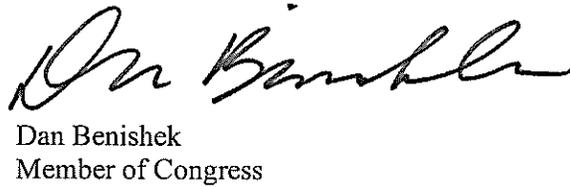
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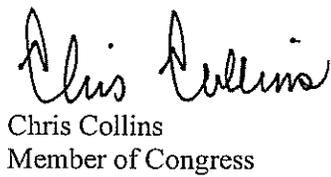
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

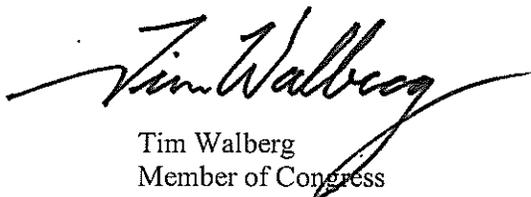

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Member of Congress

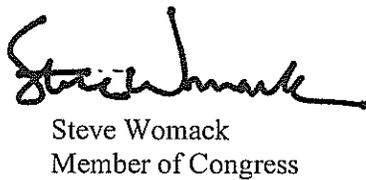

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