

October 15, 2020

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th St NW,  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We write to you about ongoing negotiations between the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Government of India. As you continue discussions with Prime Minister Modi's Administration to reach a trade deal and potentially reinstate India's Generalized System of Preference Status, we would like to stress the importance of removing existing barriers to the export of U.S. agricultural products, specifically pecans.

As you may know, American pecan producers have faced many challenges due to rising imports from Mexico, Chinese tariffs, natural disasters like Hurricane Michael, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Gaining access to new markets for pecans will help ease the pain while orchards are replanted and a trade deal is negotiated with China.

The growing middle class in India has demonstrated its desire for consumer-oriented agricultural products, like tree nuts, and the Indian market represents one of the most dynamic and fastest growing in the world. Unfortunately, the current high tariff (36 percent) that India charges on pecan imports makes it difficult for American producers to compete in this important market. In contrast, we understand that the current Indian tariffs on U.S. pistachios and almonds is much lower (10 percent), which highlights how disproportionately high the pecan tariff is. Lowering the tariff on pecans would provide the Indian people with more economical access to tree nut varieties, while providing a much-needed economic boost to rural America.

The pecan industry contributes over \$3.57 billion to the economies of the 15 pecan producing states in the United States. Over the last ten years, exports alone have pumped an additional \$1.25 billion in economic activity into rural America. Reducing trade barriers into India is an opportunity to strengthen the economy of rural America.

Thank you for your work to expand access for American agricultural products around the world.

Sincerely,



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
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Doug Collins  
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Neal Dunn, M.D.  
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A. Drew Ferguson, IV D.M.D.  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Garrett Graves  
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Michael Guest  
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Deb Haaland  
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Jody Hice  
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Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



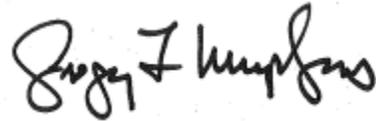
Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
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David Scott  
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Greg Stanton  
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William Timmons  
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Rob Woodall  
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