

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2019

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 discussion 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, and Hurricane Michael's impact on tree loss and 2018 crop production. 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.

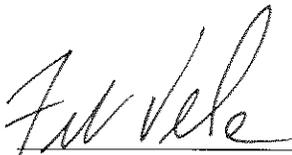
Sincerely,



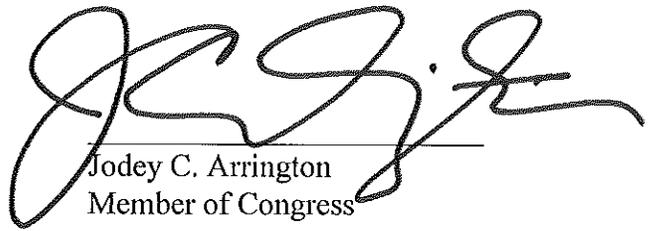
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



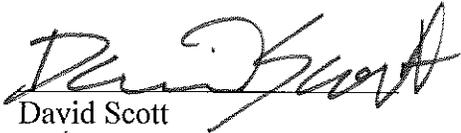
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



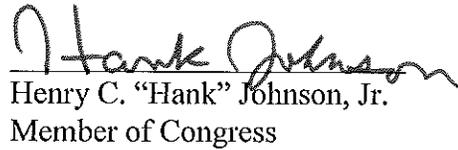
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



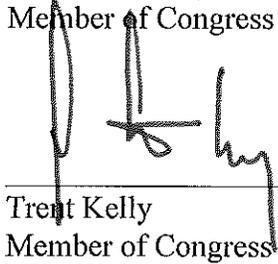
Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



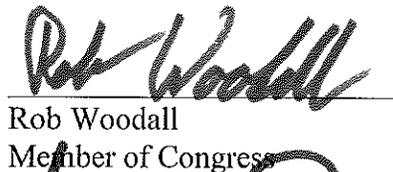
David Scott
Member of Congress



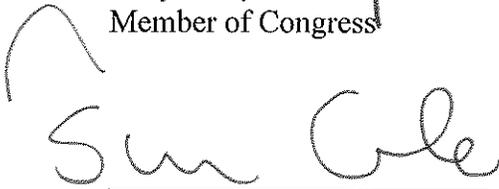
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



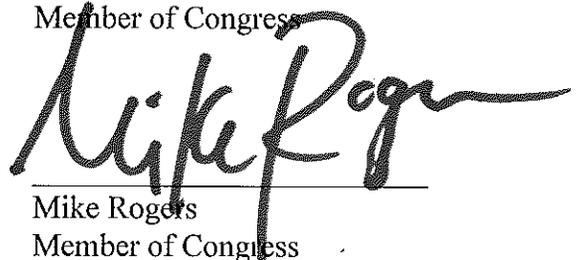
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



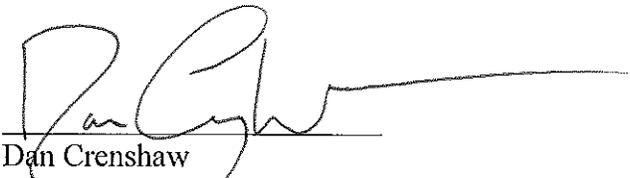
Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



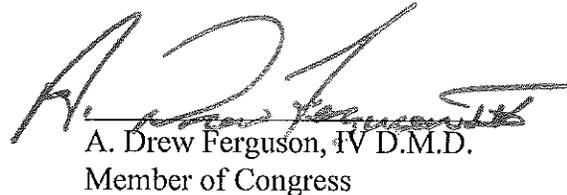
Tom Cole
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Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



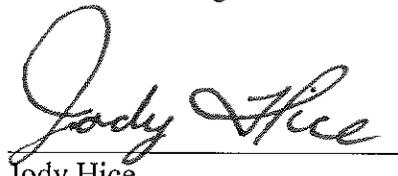
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV D.M.D.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Vicente González
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



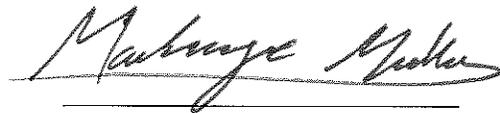
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



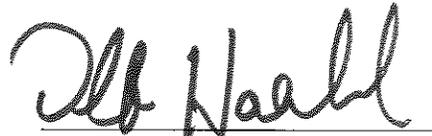
Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



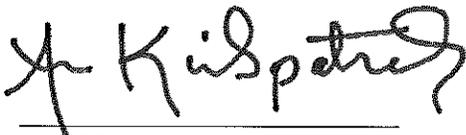
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
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Xochitl Torres Small
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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Michael Guest
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TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo
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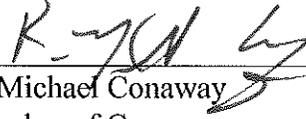
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



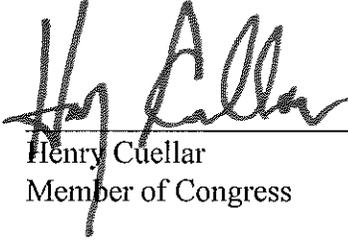
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
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