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October 1, 2015

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

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As you meet in Atlanta for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Ministerial, the undersigned supporters of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) on the House Committee on Agriculture wish to express our views on the elements needed for the agreement to be regarded by us as a success. We supported TPA because we recognize the benefits of trade for agriculture; however, our support for TPP hinges on ensuring that several remaining issues are favorably addressed.

We greatly appreciate you and your staff fully engaging the Members of the House Committee on Agriculture. The Committee's membership has been following negotiations very closely because America's farmers and ranchers and the communities dependent upon agriculture are so heavily impacted by the TPP.

Along with our colleagues serving on the respective trade committees, we are hopeful that you will succeed in your endeavors to conclude an agreement that is good for American agriculture and the jobs, both on and off the farm, that agriculture generates. Toward this end, we would greatly appreciate your continued efforts to work closely with us and relevant U.S. stakeholders to favorably resolve outstanding issues.

We would note that America's sugar farmers have shown flexibility in working with your negotiating team to arrive at a position that grants greater access without undermining important U.S. sugar policy. We remain strongly opposed to going beyond the parameters of what the U.S. has already offered after consultation with the U.S. industry, and we commend you for your work in this area.

We do, however, remain deeply concerned over the lack of meaningful market access in key markets for America's rice farmers, and we are also deeply concerned by the lack of movement

and transparency with respect to meaningful new, balanced market access for our nation's dairy farmers. In our estimation, more must be done in these regards.


Finally, you have repeatedly stressed that the U.S. has no proposal for carving out tobacco from the Investor-State Dispute Settlement. We—along with America's farmers and ranchers—have repeatedly stressed our deep concerns with such a slippery slope and the precedents that it would establish. We are disappointed that a proposal has been put forth in the waning days of these negotiations, despite our vocal and repeated objections.

Again, we thank you for all of your hard work and efforts. We are hopeful that your continued efforts will yield an agreement that we can support—one that will be good for our country and all of American agriculture.


Sincerely,


K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress


Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress


Frank Lucas
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress

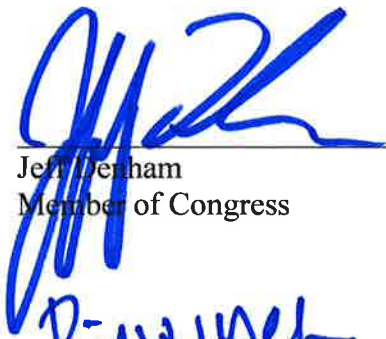

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