

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Michael Froman
Ambassador
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Froman:

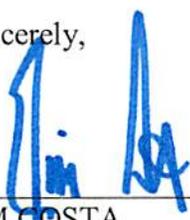
We are writing to you regarding the U.S. Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) rule and the impending compliance ruling by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Should the WTO decide that this rule is in fact non-compliant with U.S. trade obligations involving our two largest trading partners – Canada and Mexico – the impact of potential retaliatory actions poses a significant risk to the American economy. In the event that the United States loses this dispute settlement case, we request that you immediately rescind the May 24, 2013 final rule.

In the initial complaint brought against the United States by Canada and Mexico, the WTO determined that the previous COOL rule was not compliant with WTO obligations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) then attempted to bring the rule into compliance in the final rule on May 24, 2013, but Canada and Mexico charged that this rule was, in fact, more restrictive and would cause further harm to their industries. As a result, the governments of both Canada and Mexico have made it clear that should the final rule remain in effect, they will impose harsh trade retaliatory measures. Canada has already published a broad-based list of proposed commodities and manufactured products from across the United States. Though Mexico has not published its proposed list, we anticipate it will be just as broad as Canada's.

We are aware that the WTO has recently issued a preliminary, confidential determination to the parties, and that the final determination will be released to the public in the coming months. Should the WTO rule against the United States, we request the Administration – specifically the Secretary of Agriculture – rescind the final rule while Congress works to permanently resolve this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and we hope to work together to achieve a solution that maintains a healthy relationship with our trading partners and protects the American economy.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



FRANK LUCAS
Member of Congress



RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



GLORIA NEGRETE-MCLEOD
Member of Congress



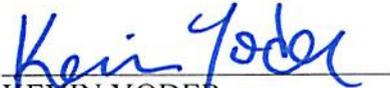
MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress



DAN BENISHEK
Member of Congress



MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress



KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



MIKE CONAWAY
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



STEVE WOMACK
Member of Congress



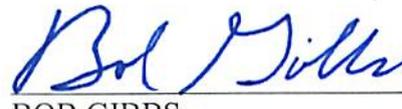
RICHARD HUDSON
Member of Congress



BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



SAM GRAVES
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress



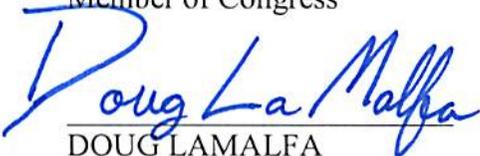
TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress



LEE TERRY
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



SCOTT DESJARLAIS
Member of Congress



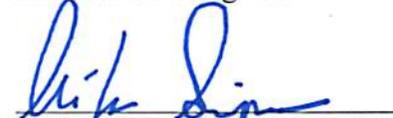
TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress



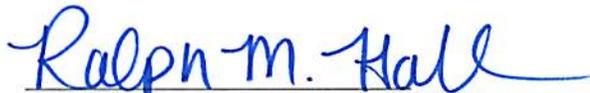
DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress



MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress



MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress



RALPH HALL
Member of Congress



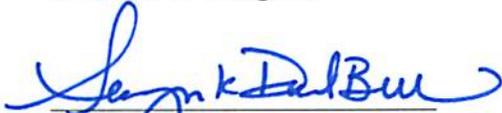
BOB LATTA
Member of Congress



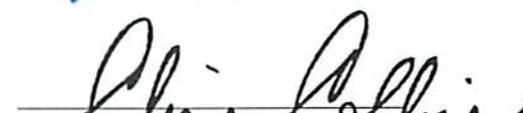
JOE BARTON
Member of Congress



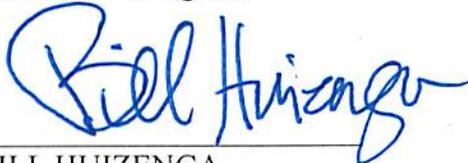
MIKE POMPEO
Member of Congress



SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress



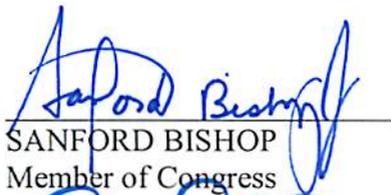
CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



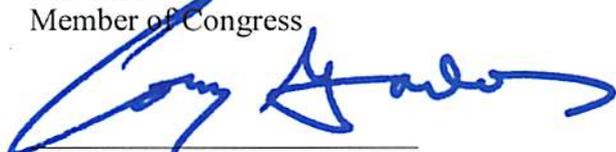
BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



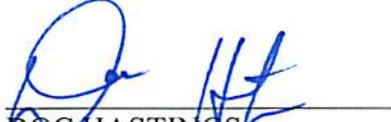
BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress


SANFORD BISHOP
Member of Congress

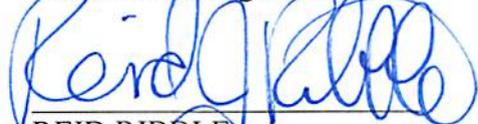

PHIL ROE
Member of Congress

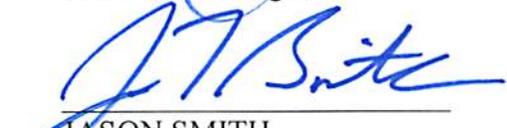

CORY GARDNER
Member of Congress


TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress

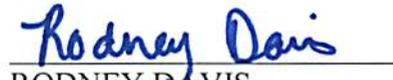

DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress


TODD ROKITA
Member of Congress


REID RIBBLE
Member of Congress


JASON SMITH
Member of Congress


DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress


RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress

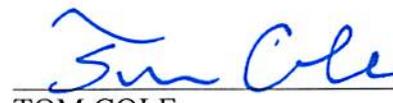

TOM REED
Member of Congress


TOM COTTON
Member of Congress

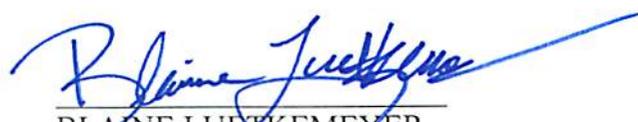

JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress


STEPHEN FINCHER
Member of Congress


RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress


TOM COLE
Member of Congress


LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress


BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress


G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress


KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress


FRED UPTON
Member of Congress


JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress


TED YOHO
Member of Congress

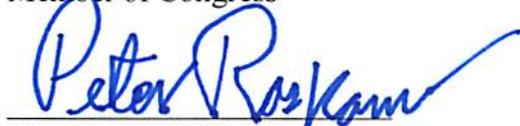

LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress


MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress


CHRIS GIBSON
Member of Congress

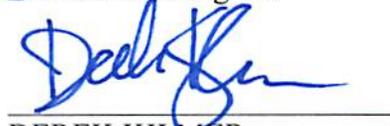

VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress


DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress


PETER ROSKAM
Member of Congress

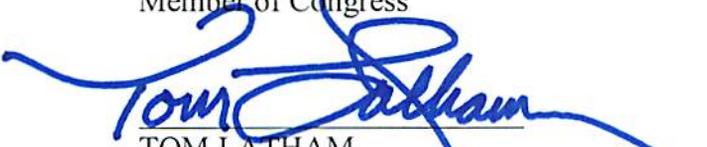

JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress


SCOTT TIPTON
Member of Congress


DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress


MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Member of Congress


PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress


TOM LATHAM
Member of Congress


MARLIN STUTZMAN
Member of Congress



BILL OWENS
Member of Congress



TED POE
Member of Congress



RAUL LABRADOR
Member of Congress



STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress



BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



BILL FLORES
Member of Congress



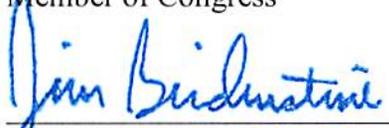
PETE GALLEGO
Member of Congress



BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK
Member of Congress



LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress



JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress



TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress



GLENN "G.T." THOMPSON
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress

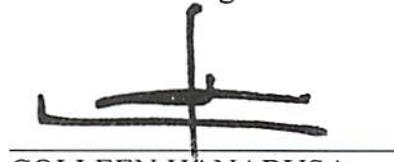


LARRY BUCSHON
Member of Congress


STEVE SOUTHERLAND
Member of Congress


WILLIAM ENYART
Member of Congress


RENEE ELMERS
Member of Congress

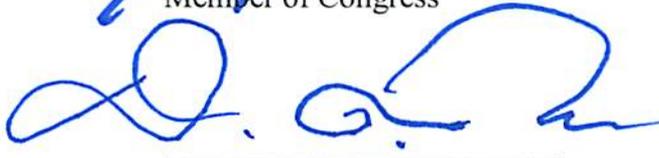

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress


TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress


CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

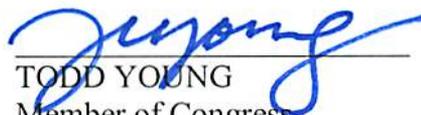

MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress


DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress


DENNIS ROSS
Member of Congress


ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress


JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress


TODD YOUNG
Member of Congress


CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress


TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Member of Congress


GEORGE HOLDING
Member of Congress


LOUIE GOMERT
Member of Congress


ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress


ROBERT PITTENGER
Member of Congress


ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress


SUSAN BROOKS
Member of Congress