

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2018

Dear President Trump,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure trade with China is fair, transparent, and beneficial to our economy. Throughout China's deliberate attempt to harm American agriculture in response to Section 232 and 301 tariffs, farmers and ranchers have supported you, and appreciated your support through USDA trade mitigation programs. However, their dedication to your trade agenda is wavering as agriculture producers face continued market distortions and uncertainty over the second installment of Market Facilitation Program payments.

Secretary Perdue has assured farmers that the second installment of payments would be delivered before the end of 2018. However, recent reports indicate that because of the progress in trade negotiations with China, some within the administration are questioning if American farmers and ranchers need additional relief. We believe that any such viewpoints that would challenge the need for additional relief are ill-informed and alarming. Agricultural producers need our continued support just to potentially break even and be able to continue farming, let alone make any profit for their year's work.

While the agriculture community is encouraged by recent soybean sales to China, current and future sales will do little to rectify losses from the prolonged period of low commodity prices and disrupted markets. It will take months of consistent sales and a stable marketplace to reverse the upset in trade dynamics with China, and will take even longer for farmers to realize any improvement in economic activity. We urge you to continue to honor your Administration's commitment to rural America and quickly deliver the second round of Market Facilitation Program Payments to agriculture producers. Rural America has shouldered the burden of Chinese retaliation and needs your continued help.

Sincerely,



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Jodey Arrington
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Bob Gibbs
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Frank Lucas
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Bruce Westerman
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French Hill
Member of Congress