



January 21, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations, members of the Alliance to Keep U.S. Jobs (www.KeepUSJobs.org), applaud your recent proposal to bring the trucking dispute with Mexico to a mutually acceptable conclusion. The Alliance is a coalition of U.S. agriculture and industry interests for whom sales to Mexico contribute substantially to employment and the bottom line. Many of us are producers of goods that have been hit by Mexico's retaliatory tariffs. We have been waiting and hoping for this step for over 18 months, while seeing our sales to Mexico replaced by products from competitor countries. It is hard to calculate how many U.S. jobs have been lost during this time.

The "concept" paper developed by Secretary LaHood is an enormously important step toward a solution that will put an end to the retaliation against our products. We recognize that it is just a first step and that opponents of a solution that moves the United States toward compliance with its international obligations will work hard to halt your efforts. We urge you to proceed quickly to resolve this matter with Mexico not only because it will save jobs in our industries but also because it is in the national interest to do so.

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk has frequently stated that enforcement of trade agreements is a key pillar of the Administration's trade agenda. He has said, and we certainly agree, that trade agreements are of little value and will not be supported by the public if they are not enforced. Our insistence that other nations abide by their trade agreement obligations is only credible if we practice what we preach. Resolving this dispute will demonstrate our determination to abide by the terms of trade agreements we sign. This message could not come at a better time as we begin to move forward with the approval of pending free trade agreements and as progress is being made in other trade negotiating venues.

Producers of both manufactured goods and agricultural products on the list have been caught in the cross-fire of a trade dispute in which they are innocent bystanders. The list is now 99 separate items, but, because Mexico has modified the list before and would be likely to do so again, nearly any producer in the U.S. might at some point be hit if the dispute is not resolved.

Producers of such products as pork, cheese, sweet corn, pistachios, apples, adhesives, gloves, floor coverings, containers, trench diggers and other products that were added to the

retaliation list in August have already felt the pain of the higher tariffs on their shipments to Mexico. Producers of goods that have been on the list since March 2009 have suffered even greater harm.

Mr. President, the signatories to this letter praised your State of the Union commitment last year to double U.S. exports in five years. We want this objective to be realized and will do all we can to help you achieve it. As you have rightly pointed out, increased exports create jobs. By the same token, lost exports cost jobs. We have learned the hard way that lost exports are very hard to recapture once new supply chains are established with third-country competitors.

We therefore commend you for your renewed effort to remove an unnecessary impediment to the free flow of our products to Mexico and pledge to work with your Administration help ensure that a solution is implemented without delay.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters & Importers
American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, A.C.
American Chemistry Council
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Institute for International Steel
American Meat Institute
American Nursery & Landscape Association
American Peanut Council
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Renderers Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
American Trucking Associations
Amway
Appleton Paper
Apricot Producers of California
Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM)
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Blue Diamond Growers
Business Roundtable
California Agriculture Issues Forum

California Cherry Export Association
California Dried Plum Board
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fig Advisory Board
California Grain & Feed Association
California Grape and Tree Fruit League
California League of Food Processors
California Pear Advisory Board
California Seed Association
California Strawberry Commission
California Table Grape Commission
California Tomato Growers Association
California Walnut Commission
Campbell Soup Company
Cange International, Inc.
Cargill, Incorporated
Caterpillar
Chiquita Brands
Commodity Markets Council
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Consumer Electronics Association
Continental Express Inc.
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Dallas Regional Chamber
Dart Container Corporation
DHL Express USA
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association

Free Trade Alliance
Frozen Potato Products Institute
General Electric Company
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers
Association
Glatfelter
Glanbia Foods
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Grower-Shipper Association of Central
California
Grower-Shipper Association of Santa
Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties
Herbalife International of America, Inc.
Hills & Company International Consultants
Hormel Foods Corporation
International Dairy Foods Association
Jefferson Waterman International
JVCasey & Associates LLC
JR Simplot Company
Kraft Foods
Louis Dreyfus Commodities
Magination Consulting International
Manatt Phillips
Mars Incorporated
Mary Kay, Inc.
NASDA
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Grower's Association
National Beef Packing Company
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Christmas Tree Association
National Confectioners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Electrical Manufacturers
Association
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association

National Turkey Federation
National Watermelon Association
Navistar International Corporation
Nestle Purina PetCare Company
Nestle USA
Nisei Farmers League
North American Equipment Dealers
Association
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Ohio Alliance for International Trade
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Pacific Egg & Poultry Association
Panasonic Corporation of North America
PepsiCo, Inc.
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Food Institute
Plastic Express
Procter & Gamble
Produce Marketing Association
RR Donnelley
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Schering-Plough
Seaboard Foods, LLC
Smithfield Foods
Snack Food Association
STR
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.
Sweetener Users Association
TBM Carriers, Inc
TechAmerica
Texas Vegetable Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Hershey Company
The Latino Trade Coalition
The Popcorn Institute
Travel Goods Association
Truss World, Inc.
Tyson Foods
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains Council

U.S. Hides, Skins, and Leather Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
U.S.-Mexico Leadership Initiative
U.S. Premium Beef
U.S. Rice Producers Association
U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
Unilever United States, Inc.
United Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
United States - Mexico Chamber of
Commerce
United States Association of Importers of
Textiles and Apparel
United States Council for International
Business
United States Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Viagen
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Washington State Council for International
Trade
Western Growers Association
Western Pistachio Association
Western United Dairymen
Wine Institute
Yum Brands