



June 4, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3508

Dear Congressman Boehner:

On behalf of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 2393 which would "effectively repeal Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements for beef, pork and chicken, while leaving intact the requirement for all other covered commodities" by amending the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. H.R. 2393 was reported favorably by the House Agriculture Committee with bipartisan support on May 20, 2015.

Repealing COOL will ensure the U.S. remains in compliance with its multilateral commitments. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has on four separate occasions ruled against U.S. laws on COOL on beef and pork products, most recently on May 18, 2015. The WTO has repeatedly found that COOL laws violate our MFN commitments at the WTO, and that specifically "**recordkeeping and verification requirements of the amended** COOL measure impose a disproportionate burden on producers and processors of livestock that cannot be explained by the need to provide origin information to consumers...[COOL] has a detrimental impact on competitive opportunities for imported livestock."

The May 18 ruling against COOL makes it more important than ever for the U.S to show its commitment to the multilateral trading system and the WTO. The potential for retaliatory tariffs by some U.S. trading partners were it to continue to ignore the WTO ruling is counterproductive to U.S interests. Such retaliation would have immediate and widespread detrimental effects on companies, including those in food, agriculture and manufacturing.

More important, however, is the fact that the U.S. has a long history of compliance with WTO rulings, a record that helps us convince other countries they should do the same when they act in a way inconsistent with their obligations. The strength of the WTO lies in its effective dispute resolution system, which more often than not has resulted in rulings favorable to the United States. Were the US to continue to ignore the decisions in the COOL case, the underpinnings of the global trading system would be called into question. That is simply too great a risk for both the American and global economies.

As the oldest and largest American business organization dedicated solely to international business issues, advocating a rules-based world economy and an open world trading system, the NFTC urges you to vote in favor of H.R. 2393

Sincerely,

William A. Reinsch
President