The President
The White House
Washington, D.C., 20500

July 30, 2014

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our deep concern over Japan’s current market access offer within the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. When Japan joined these negotiations, it agreed that the elimination of tariffs is a key feature of the agreement, as announced by TPP leaders on November 12, 2011. Unfortunately, Japan’s current position falls far short of acceptability.

Specifically, Japan is seeking to exempt numerous tariff lines from complete elimination with the United States. If accepted, this unprecedented and objectionable offer would significantly limit access for U.S. farmers and ranchers to the Japanese market, and most likely, to other TPP countries as well. Furthermore, caving to Japan’s demands would set a damaging precedent, compromising the U.S. negotiating position with future TPP members. This result runs the significant risk that the EU will be encouraged to make unacceptably weak offers in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, undermining Congressional support. In that same vein, we are also troubled by Canada’s lack of ambition, which is threatening a robust outcome for U.S. farmers.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership was envisioned as a high-standard, 21st-century trade agreement that would be a model for all future U.S. free trade agreements. To realize this goal, we urge you to hold Japan and Canada to the same high standards as other TPP partners. Otherwise, Congressional support for a final TPP agreement will be jeopardized. Indeed, we urge you to pursue the TPP negotiations without any country, including Japan, Canada, or others, that proves unwilling to open its market in accordance with these high standards. We owe our farmers and ranchers the best deal possible.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

FRANK D. LUCAS
Member of Congress

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress
BILL FLORES  
Member of Congress

SAM GRAVES  
Member of Congress

VIRGINIA FOXX  
Member of Congress

ALAN GRAYSON  
Member of Congress

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

TIM GRIFFIN  
Member of Congress

CORY GARDNER  
Member of Congress

VICKY HARTZLIER  
Member of Congress

JIM GERLACH  
Member of Congress

DOC HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

BOB GIBBS  
Member of Congress

GEORGE HOLDING  
Member of Congress

BOB GOODLATTE  
Member of Congress

RICHARD HUDSON  
Member of Congress

PAUL A. GOSAR  
Member of Congress

TIM HUELSKAMP  
Member of Congress
STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

LEE TERRY
Member of Congress

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

GLENN THOMPSON
Member of Congress

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress

BRAD R. WENSTRUP
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PATRICK J. TIBERI
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STEVE WOMACK
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SCOTT R. TIPTON
Member of Congress

TED S. YOHO
Member of Congress

FRED UPTON
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TODD C. YOUNG
Member of Congress

DAVID G. VALADAIO
Member of Congress
CANDICE S. MILLER
Member of Congress

WALTER E. JONES
Member of Congress

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress

MO BROOKS
Member of Congress

BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress

TODD ROKITA
Member of Congress

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress

DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress