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United States Senate

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September 8, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We write you to convey our strong concerns over recent action taken by the Chinese government to reject U.S. export shipments of dried distillers grains (DDGs) that contain traces of a U.S. approved trait, which has been under regulatory consideration by the Chinese government. We urge you to work with China to restore the flow of trade as quickly as possible and to develop a more consistent set of rules governing the trade of new crop technologies between the two countries.

As you know, China is the top destination for U.S. exports of DDGs, totaling four million tons valued at \$1.6 billion in 2013. Every link in the DDGs supply chain—including ethanol producers, corn farmers, and shippers—have already incurred significant economic damages due to these actions by the Chinese government.

The trade disruption in DDGs is yet another example of the regulatory challenges industry has faced with China since it began blocking U.S. corn shipments in November 2013. We encourage you to work closely with China to promote a science-driven review process for agricultural biotechnology that issues determinations without undue delay, consistent with WTO member country obligations.

As biotech products are a key component of U.S. agricultural trade with China, including exports of DDGs, achieving greater cooperation between the two countries on trade issues involving new crop technologies is essential to maintaining our position as the leading agricultural exporter worldwide.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen our trade relationship with China in agriculture. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp

Mike Johanns

Bob Dicks

Ray Bennett

Chris Coons

Mark Royce

John Sununu

Sheldon Brown

Scott Brown

Tommy Baldwin

Joe Donnelly

Al Franken

Amy Klobuchar

Tim Johnson

Pat Roberts

Clayton Kiewit

Rob Portman

cc:

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture