

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

Earlier this month, the President announced an initial trade deal with the People's Republic of China. We look forward to working with the President and you to address structural problems U.S. companies face in China, remove unfair and illegal Chinese tariffs from various U.S. exports and to expand access to the Chinese market for our constituents' goods and products.

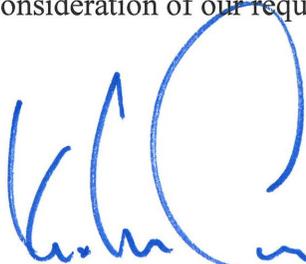
During the President's Oval Office announcement regarding the trade agreement, he indicated that one important aspect of the deal is a commitment by China to purchase \$40 billion to \$50 billion of U.S. agricultural products annually. Accordingly, we respectfully request that as the Administration works to implement this action, U.S.-grown fresh citrus products are included in any purchase agreements or purchases made by China.

Over the years, China has been a major export destination for fresh citrus grown in California. However, since China imposed unfair and illegal tariffs on U.S. fresh citrus exports with an effective tariff rate of approximately 75%, our constituent growers have seen a precipitous decline in exports. As citrus orchards cannot be fallowed – it takes upwards of 7 years for orange and lemon trees to reach commercial production levels – California fresh citrus growers are urgently seeking other markets for their fruit.

Inclusion of U.S. fresh citrus among China's purchases of agricultural products would be a huge victory for our U.S. and California fresh citrus growers. This would not only help ensure California-grown fresh citrus retains a presence in the Chinese market, but also would help reduce the adverse impacts to these growers from China's unfair and illegal tariffs.

We look forward to working with the President and you to curb China's trade abuses and increase access to the Chinese market for American-grown goods and products. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress