

May 31, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

The undersigned organizations representing agricultural producers are hopeful that the Trump Administration will prioritize negotiations with China to resolve many longstanding obstacles to U.S. agricultural exports while avoiding mutually destructive tariffs.

Your administration has rightfully identified many unfair trading practices by China that harm the U.S. economy, including issues related to agricultural technology. U.S. agriculture faces countless non-tariff barriers in China that have prevented the producers we represent from receiving the full benefits of China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

We look forward to establishing normal commercial relations with China based on predictability, transparency, and market openness. There is no doubt that your administration has the attention of China and that you should seize this opportunity to achieve long-term benefits for U.S. farmers, while preventing China from moving the goalposts once again or imposing tariffs that result in more, rather than fewer, barriers to U.S. agricultural exports.

There needs to be a major recalibration of our trade relationship with China. Virtually every organization represented on this letter has examples of mistreatment of our products by China. Some products are blocked outright. Others get much more limited access than promised or face unfairly subsidized competition. Still others have access but can face effective import bans if using certain production-enhancing technologies that are demonstrably safe.

We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to negotiate meaningful and tangible commitments from China on agricultural market access. We also firmly believe that durable market access and policymaking transparency should be two tenets of any negotiation with China, supplemented by your efforts to resolve specific barriers through your administration's actions in the WTO dispute settlement process.

The reputation of U.S. agriculture as a reliable supplier to the world is critical to the future of the industry so we strongly encourage negotiations leading to open and predictable trade, particularly in cooperation with other countries in the region that share our concerns about China's mercantilist policies.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
United Fresh Produce Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Soybean Export Council
U.S. Wheat Associates
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Western Growers