

January 23, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer:

The undersigned organizations, in full recognition of the importance of U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) ratification to the economic interests of all three countries, wish to underscore the importance of lifting tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and the removal of all retaliatory tariffs on trade among the parties.

For many farmers, ranchers and manufacturers, the damage from the reciprocal trade actions in the steel dispute far outweighs any benefit that may accrue to them from the USMCA. The continued application of metal tariffs means ongoing economic hardship for U.S. companies that depend on imported steel and aluminum, but that are not exempted from these tariffs. Producers of agricultural and manufactured products that are highly dependent on the Canadian and Mexican markets are also suffering serious financial losses.

We urge you to take all necessary steps to resolve this matter so that zero-tariff North American trade can resume, and we can turn our attention to working with you to gain prompt Congressional approval of the USMCA.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Frozen Food Institute
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Can Manufacturers Institute
CropLife America
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Flexible Packaging Association

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Juice Products Association
Midwest Food Products Association
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Foreign Trade Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Tooling and Machining Association
North American Die Casting Association
North American Meat Institute
Pet Food Institute
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Sweetener Users Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
United States Council for International Business

Cc: Mr. Lawrence Kudlow, Director, White House National Economic Council