

August 16, 2011

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Nunes:

The undersigned agricultural and food organizations and companies support H.R. 2707, the *Agricultural Trade Facilitation Act*. We believe this legislation will help establish key negotiating objectives in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and future trade agreements in the area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

No one will argue that SPS measures are not an important part of trade, designed to protect human, animal and plant life or health. However, these measures need to be based on science, applied only to the extent necessary, be implemented in a fully transparent and consistent manner, and should not be arbitrarily used to discriminate and unjustifiably block market access. In trade negotiations we can reduce tariffs, but we don't truly have market access if we find our products blocked due to SPS measures being used as a tool to hinder trade.

H.R. 2707 sets out to strengthen the position of the U.S. government in its negotiating position on SPS measures to ensure SPS rules in our trade agreements with our partners are science-based, transparent, effective and enforceable. The legislation establishes the principles necessary to reduce the negative effects on trade while maintaining the rights of countries, including the United States, to protect health and safety.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you on H.R. 2707.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute
American Pistachio Growers
American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Blue Diamond Growers
California Apple Commission
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Cattlemen's Association
California Cotton Ginners Association
California Cotton Growers Association

California Dairies, Inc.
California Grape & Tree Fruit League
California Olive Association
California Poultry Federation
California Rice Commission
California Women for Agriculture
California Wool Growers Association
Corn Refiners Association
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Harris Ranch
International Dairy Foods Association
Milk Producers Council
Monsanto Company
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Fisheries Institute
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Turkey Federation
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Tulare County (CA) Farm Bureau
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Wheat Associates
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers Association
Western United Dairymen
World Wide Sires

cc: Ambassador Islam Siddiqui, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Deputy Under Secretary Darci Vetter, U.S. Department of Agriculture