



June 9, 2017

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

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations of the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC) represent a broad range of more than 100 agricultural commodity and farm member organizations along with members of the agricultural private sector that support improving rural economies and enhancing opportunities for U.S. agriculture through normalized trade with Cuba.

As you consider the future of the United States' relationship with Cuba, we urge you to include support of H.R. 525, the Cuba Agricultural Exports Act, as part of your platform. This bill allows for private-sector financing of U.S. agricultural products exported to Cuba, allows for the promotion of U.S. agricultural products in Cuba, and provides U.S. companies with the ability to develop agricultural businesses in Cuba.

H.R. 525 is a bill that puts America first at a time when net farm income and U.S. commodity prices are continuing to decline sharply, which is why it has the broad, bipartisan support of 26 Members of Congress. As you are aware, U.S. agricultural and food products can be exported to Cuba under the Trade Sanctions Reform Act of 2000 (TSRA). While TSRA opened the channel for shipping U.S. agricultural commodities and food products to Cuba, restrictions on financing those sales have made it difficult to compete with our foreign competitors in the Cuban market.

Roadblocks such as this put U.S. agriculture at a global disadvantage as we watch foreign competitors continue to take away our market share because of their ability to offer generous credit terms. As recently as 2008, we were selling nearly \$700 million in agriculture products to Cuba annually. In 2015, our sales were under \$200 million in what is nearly a \$2 billion market. U.S. market share is now less than 10 percent of Cuba's agricultural imports, despite the superior quality of our products, our competitive prices, and the logistical advantages we have. Located just 90 miles from the U.S. coast, Cuba should be an obvious and reliable market for American businesses, as it has been in the past.

Depriving U.S. farmers and agribusinesses of the tools they need to be successful – such as access to private financing – is harmful to farmers, detrimental to rural economies and denies agribusinesses of an opportunity to grow jobs in the U.S. Therefore, we urge you to endorse

H.R. 525, the Cuba Agricultural Exports Act, as a way to grow U.S. agricultural exports and support rural economies and jobs.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Organizations

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Feed Industry Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Cherry Marketing Institute
Corn Refiners Association
Council of State Governments
CNFA: Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
Dairy Farmers of America
Global Aquaculture Alliance
Independent Professional Seed Association
International Dairy Foods Association
Matter
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Association of Egg Farmers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Export Grain Association
North American Meat Institute
Rural & Agricultural Council of America
Soyfoods Association of North America
US Canola Association
US Cattlemen's Association
US Dairy Export Council
US Dry Bean Council
US Grains Council
US Soybean Export Council
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council

USA Rice Federation
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Alcorn State University
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
Arkansas Farm Bureau
California Rice Producers
Holstein Association USA
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Cuba Working Group
Illinois Soybean Growers
Illinois Farm Bureau
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indiana Corn Marketing Council
Iowa Farm Bureau
Kansas Wheat
Louisiana Rice Council
Michigan Apple Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Bean Commission
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Michigan Potato Industry Commission
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Missouri Rice Council
Missouri Forest Products Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Mississippi Rice Council
Ohio Farm Bureau
Texas Farm Bureau
University of Missouri-Fisher Delta Research Center
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Agriculture Corporations

ADM
Advanced Drainage Systems
AGCO
Bunge
Butterball
Cargill, Incorporated
Chicago Foods International
Campbell Farms
Clark AG Company

CoBank
Franklin Electric
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
Hampton Alternative Energy & Feedlot
Hover Farms
Intertek Agriculture Services
Kaehler Agriculture Enterprises
Kerley Nutritional Consulting
Louis Dreyfus Company
Missouri BioZyme, Inc
Missouri Burnett Farms
Martin Rice Company
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc
Net Worth Feeds & Feeding
Orrick Farm Services
Gary Murphy Farms
Smithfield Foods
South Louisiana Rail Facility
Sun-Maid Growers of California
St. James Winery
Synergy Resource Solutions, Inc.
Thomas E. Jennings and Associates, Inc.
Turkey Knob Growers
TRC Trading Group
US Wellness Meats
US Cava Exports