

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We write to raise concerns regarding the lack of progress in the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) with respect to improved mechanisms to initiate and sustain legitimate anti-dumping and countervailing duties (AD/CVD) proceedings for trade in seasonal and perishable produce. As you know, providing a fair process for domestic seasonal fruit and vegetable growers to access genuine AD/CVD relief was not just an early objective of the Administration's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations, but was also referenced by Congress under current Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). The USMCA's silence on the matter is significant and concerning.

The President has consistently argued that reducing persistent trade deficits with America's trading partners is an important goal in the pursuit of free, fair, and reciprocal trade. The U.S. agricultural trade deficit with Mexico has risen rapidly since NAFTA came into force, driven by growing Mexican fruit and vegetable exports buoyed by significant government subsidies and unfair pricing practices, among other factors. In 2016, the U.S. faced a \$5.1 billion trade deficit in agricultural goods with Mexico. Fruits and vegetables made up the largest source of Mexico's bilateral agricultural trade surplus at \$11.2 billion, nearly \$2 billion more than the bilateral U.S. trade surplus of meats, dairy, grain, and oilseeds *combined*. While the Mexican Government has refused to include a mechanism to correct this growing imbalance in the USMCA text, we still believe the Administration must ensure that clear rules are in place to defend domestic seasonal and perishable produce from unfair trade practices.

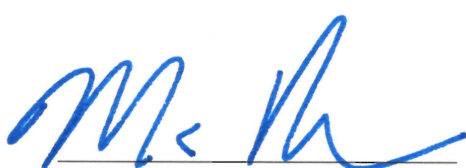
We strongly insist that the Administration address this issue in a way that gives confidence to all seasonal growers that the federal government can and will act to counter legitimate injury from unfair imports from Mexico or any other country. This could be accomplished by enacting the Defending Domestic Produce Production Act (S. 16 / H.R. 101), or through appropriate administrative action to establish equally effective, enforceable, and durable remedies through existing trade authorities. Those remedies must be able to provide relief, as necessary and applicable, across a highly diverse suite of American seasonal producers.

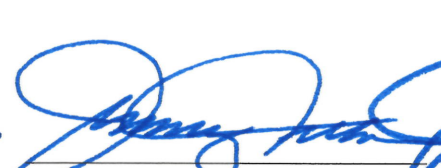
Domestic seasonal and perishable produce growers deserve reasonable access to trade enforcement tools that are readily available to other agricultural and industrial producers in the U.S. Such an outcome would be good for American fruit and vegetable farmers, good for American families, and good for the nation's food security. Moreover, a successful resolution of

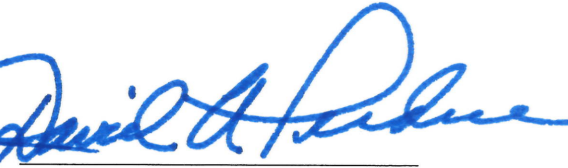
this issue would provide important support for the USMCA within the agricultural communities we represent.

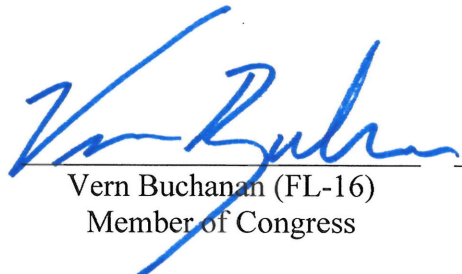
We greatly appreciate your efforts to secure the strongest trade deals possible for the United States and your commitment to protect American workers and production capacity from unfair and illegal foreign competition. We look forward to working with you towards a successful resolution of this important issue prior to a USMCA vote.

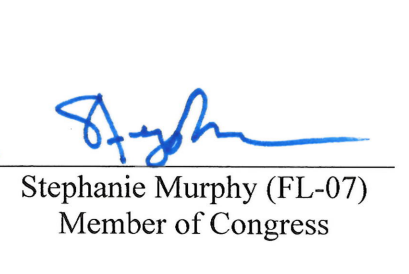
Sincerely,

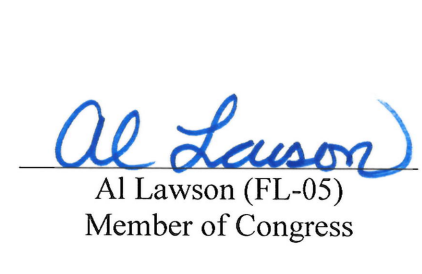

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

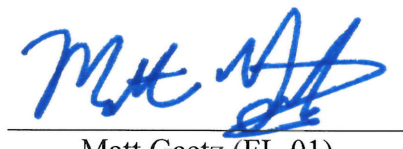

Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senator

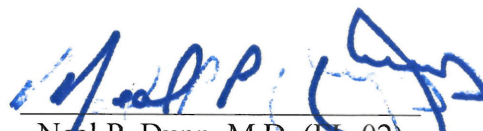

David Perdue
U.S. Senator

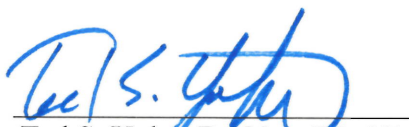

Vern Buchanan (FL-16)
Member of Congress

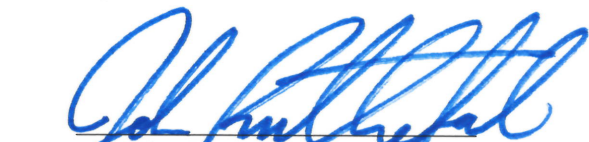

Stephanie Murphy (FL-07)
Member of Congress



Al Lawson (FL-05)
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz (FL-01)
Member of Congress


Neal P. Dunn, M.D. (FL-02)
Member of Congress


Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M. (FL-03)
Member of Congress

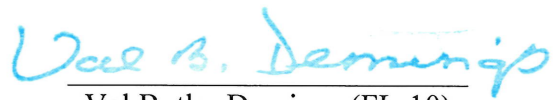

John Rutherford (FL-04)
Member of Congress


Michael Waltz (FL-06)
Member of Congress

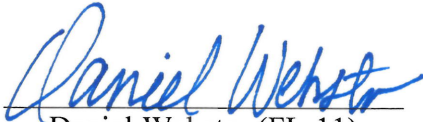

Bill Posey (FL-08)
Member of Congress



Darren Soto (FL-09)
Member of Congress




Val Butler Demings (FL-10)
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster (FL-11)
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)
Member of Congress



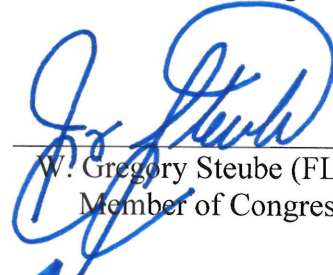
Charlie Crist (FL-13)
Member of Congress




Kathy Castor (FL-14)
Member of Congress



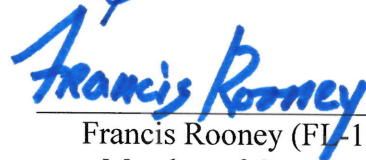
Ross Spano (FL-15)
Member of Congress



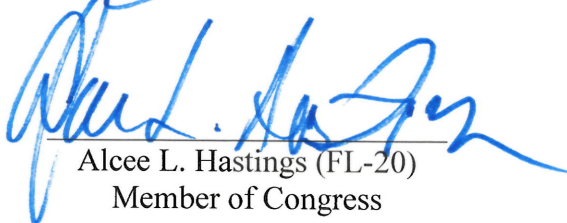
W. Gregory Steube (FL-17)
Member of Congress



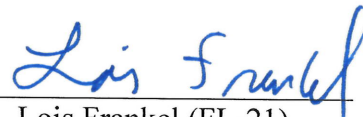
Brian Mast (FL-18)
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney (FL-19)
Member of Congress




Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel (FL-21)
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch (FL-22)
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24)
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26)
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala (FL-27)
Member of Congress



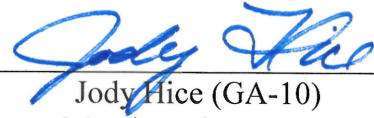
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter (GA-01)
Member of Congress



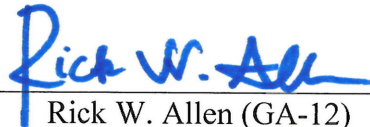
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02)
Member of Congress



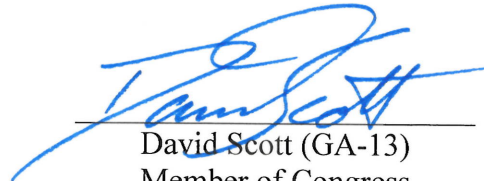
Austin Scott (GA-08)
Member of Congress



Jody Hice (GA-10)
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen (GA-12)
Member of Congress



David Scott (GA-13)
Member of Congress