

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation to become the United States Trade Representative. We were pleased by your commitment to work with us on trade measures that will help safeguard American producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables against the growing flood of unfair imports. As you work to implement a U.S. trade policy that keeps American growers competitive and secures a safe and reliable domestic food supply chain, we look forward to engaging with you on a priority basis to implement trade measures in the near term that will allow our seasonal fruit and vegetable producers to continue to feed the nation and remain viable against unfair foreign competition.

As you know, American growers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables are under unsustainable pressure from growing volumes of unfairly subsidized and/or dumped produce from Mexico, Peru, Chile, and other foreign suppliers. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) has called for a solution to this problem for nearly twenty years. Unfortunately for many of our seasonal and perishable sectors, inaction on the issue has led to sharply increasing imports, growing foreign subsidies, race-to-the-bottom labor wage disparities, progressively lower import prices, and escalating harm to our family farms and producing communities. This past year, amidst the coronavirus pandemic for example, imports of perishable fruits and vegetables surged to record levels, seizing larger segments of the market while our growers were forced to forego their harvests and plow under entire fields of viable produce. Our impacted seasonal and perishable sectors are at a crossroads and need urgent relief.

President Biden's February 24, 2021 *Executive Order on America's Supply Chains* properly recognizes the need to safeguard America's critical food supply chains. As you know, America's seasonal producers feed hundreds of millions of Americans annually, and regional sectors are often the sole US producers during the winter and spring months of the year. Should our seasonal producers in key regions disappear as a result of unrelenting unfair foreign competition, Americans would be forced to rely on foreign produce to feed their families during half of the year or more. That food supply outcome would be neither resilient nor secure.

As you have previously noted, and TPA has long confirmed, existing trade law and relief mechanisms are not structured to provide the American seasonal and perishable fruit and vegetable sectors the relief they urgently need. You have referenced possible new trade tools

and policies that could provide our growers relief and enable them to remain competitive. We applaud your attention to this issue and willingness to think in new ways to solve the problem.

With relief for our injured seasonal and perishable growers now not just a matter of fairness, but of food security for the country, we stand ready to coordinate quickly with you on a concrete action plan to deliver immediate, effective, and enforceable relief that will enable these struggling sectors to compete against the rising tide of unfair imports.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



Tim Scott  
U.S. Senator



Raphael Warnock  
U.S. Senator



Mario Diaz Balart  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



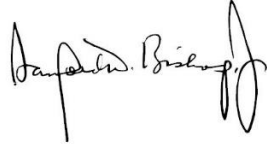
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Gus. M Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



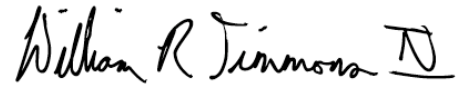
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



William Timmons  
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress

/S/

Jody Hice  
Member of Congress




Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

CC:

Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce

Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

Daniel Hornung, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy