

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