

March 26, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned food and agricultural organizations and companies strongly support the entry of Japan into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and urge the United States and the other members of the TPP to welcome Japan as a full member as quickly as possible.

The addition of Japan to the negotiations will exponentially increase the importance of the TPP to U.S. farmers and ranchers, processors and exporters as well as other sectors of the U.S. economy. Furthermore, it will spur interest in the TPP among other countries in Asia and Latin America. Finally, it will send a strong signal to other nations that efforts to negotiate more open and transparent regional trading arrangements will continue, even as multilateral efforts to do so are stymied.

Japan's economy is second only to China's in the region, and it is the United States' fourth largest agricultural export market overall, despite maintaining substantial import barriers. Our food and agricultural exports to Japan in 2012 totaled \$13.5 billion. Aside from Canada and Mexico, the next most important agricultural export market among the parties to the TPP is Vietnam, ranking 16<sup>th</sup> overall and totaling \$1.7 billion. Thus, Japan's entry into the TPP as a full partner greatly enhances the overall value of this momentous regional free trade agreement.

We understand that important issues will have to be tackled and resolved before a final TPP agreement can be successfully concluded. But we believe a comprehensive, high-standard agreement, as described and adopted by TPP leaders in November 2011, will result in an outcome that expands trade opportunities in all sectors and in all products to the benefit of each participating country.

We are pleased that Japan has embraced the opportunity to join the TPP. Moreover, we are very encouraged by the Joint Statement by the United States and Japan, issued by the White House Office of the Press Secretary on February 22, 2013, stating: "The two Governments confirm that should Japan participate in the TPP negotiations, all goods would be subject to negotiation, and Japan would join others in achieving a comprehensive, high-standard agreement, as described in the Outlines of the TPP Agreement announced by TPP Leaders on November 12, 2011."

We call on the United States and the other TPP countries to quickly welcome Japan into the TPP. We look forward to working closely with the Administration and Congress to fashion an agreement that the U.S. food and agricultural sector, represented by the signatories to this letter, can strongly endorse.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Meat Institute

American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.  
American Potato Trade Alliance  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Soybean Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Blue Diamond Growers  
California Cherry Export Association  
California Dried Plum Board  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fig Advisory Committee  
California Poultry Federation  
California Table Grape Commission  
California Walnut Commission  
Cargill, Incorporated  
Commodity Markets Council  
ConAgra Foods, Inc.  
Corn Refiners Association  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Georgia Poultry Federation  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Hormel Foods Corporation  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Black Farmers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
North Carolina Poultry Federation  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
North American Meat Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Pet Food Institute  
Produce Marketing Association  
Seaboard Foods  
Smithfield Foods  
Sunsweet Growers Inc.

Sweetener Users Association  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Grains Council  
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
U.S. Wheat Associates  
United Egg Association  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
US Dry Bean Council  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
USA Rice Federation  
Valley Fig Growers  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Western Growers Association