

December 6, 2013

Ambassador Mike Froman
United State Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack:

In July, 37 food and agricultural organizations wrote to you regarding their ambitions and expectations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. Attached to that letter was a paper containing seven “Core Principles for a Successful TPP Agreement.” As the negotiations approach their final stage, the undersigned groups wish to reemphasize the importance of these principles and particularly those relating to market access.

The specific concern we address below on market access should in no way be taken as a suggestion of diminished interest in the other core principles for the TPP. These include: a single undertaking, a strong WTO-plus SPS chapter with TPP enforcement, and a “rapid response mechanism” to deal with shipment-specific trade disruptions.

We are writing to you again because even at this late hour Japan and Canada have yet to convey their acceptance of key TPP market access objectives. In 2011, the leaders of the TPP nations agreed they would “serve to define this historic agreement and set a new standard for trade agreements in the future.” Those objectives include comprehensiveness and the elimination of tariffs and other non-tariff barriers to trade.

We urge you to insist that Japan and Canada fully adopt these objectives and undertake concessions commensurate with their status as two of the world’s largest economies and with the enormous economic gains they can expect to achieve as a result of this agreement. That means no exclusions for sensitive products and free trade without extended transition periods. In fact, the Joint Statement issued on February 22, 2013, by the United States and Japan clearly states that “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 Outline of the TPP Agreement announced by TPP Leaders on November 12, 2011.”

Therefore, it is impossible to rationalize an outcome that would allow highly developed nations such as Japan and Canada to exclude sectors from the TPP or to permit simply symbolic market access amounts. We certainly do not expect Vietnam and the other developing members of TPP to demand similar exemptions, but why would they not if they are accorded to Japan and Canada?

Japan knows that it must reform its agricultural sector and that such reform is overdue. According to the Economic Research Service, of the people engaged predominately in farming activities in Japan, more than one-third are over age 70 and more than two-thirds are over age 60. Similarly, in a country as

agriculturally competitive as Canada, it is imperative that we finally fully integrate our agricultural sectors. And that is precisely what the TPP promises to address. If it does not, it cannot be promoted as a 21st century trade agreement, and it would not justify the support of many in U.S. food and agriculture.

As always, we stand ready to work with you and your negotiators in the coming weeks to ensure that the TPP negotiations move to a successful conclusion with all key objectives achieved.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute
American Peanut Council
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Blue Diamond Growers
Campbell Soup Company
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Corn Refiners Association
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hormel Foods Corporation
International Dairy Foods Association
JBS USA
Kraft Foods Group, Inc.
Midwest Food Processors Association
National Barley Growers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North American Meat Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Seaboard Foods
Smithfield Foods
Sweetener Users Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council

July 15, 2013

Ambassador Mike Froman
United State Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack:

The undersigned food and agricultural organizations and companies wish to congratulate Ambassador Froman on becoming United States Trade Representative. We greatly appreciate the view that both of you have expressed that trade can make an important contribution to America's economic recovery, and we are committed to working with you and your staffs to assist in the Administration's efforts to increase exports of U.S. goods and services and enforce the trade rights of U.S. producers and exporters.

With this in mind, we are attaching a Statement of Core Principles for a Successful TPP Agreement, which has been endorsed by groups representing the vast majority of U.S. producers, processors and exporters of food and agricultural goods. These principles are aimed at ensuring that the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations fulfill the promise of a high-quality agreement that can serve as a standard for future trade agreements.

We stand ready to discuss these with you at your earliest convenience, and we look forward to working with you and your trade policy teams in the coming weeks and months to ensure that the principles we have outlined are taken fully into account as the negotiations move forward with the full complement of participating nations.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute
American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Blue Diamond Growers

Cargill, Incorporated
Corn Refiners Association
Grocery Manufacturers Association
International Dairy Foods Association
JBS USA
Kraft Foods Group, Inc.
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Fisheries Institute
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
North American Meat Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Smithfield Foods
Sweetener Users Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
U.S. Meat Export Federation
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council

Statement of Core Principles for a Successful TPP Agreement
Agreed To By The
Food and Agricultural Sector

The undersigned organizations, representing the vast majority of the nation's producers, processors and exporters of food and agricultural products, and in being in support of a high quality trade agreement that can serve as the standard for all future trade agreements, hereby issue the following Statement of Core Principles for the TransPacific Partnership negotiations:

One: A TPP agreement must cover all elements of trade and investment, including agriculture, goods, services, digital trade, competition policy, and intellectual property. TPP must be comprehensive.

Two: There must be no product or sector exclusions, including in agriculture. Exclusions would limit opportunities in each of the member countries to reach new markets, grow businesses and generate economic growth and jobs.

Three: All tariffs and other market access barriers must be phased out by the end of the negotiated transition period. Allowing any access restrictions to be maintained by one member would lead to demands for similar treatment by others leading to a second class trade agreement, at best. Transition periods must have commercially meaningful timeframes, which should be short and not back-loaded.

Four: Risk based scientific decision making, regulatory convergence, and equivalence are critically important. Comprehensive tariff elimination must be supported by robust SPS outcomes. Non-science based SPS measures cannot continue to restrict trade.

Five: A "Rapid Response Mechanism" (RRM) is needed in TPP to provide for shipment specific trade facilitative obligations that address frustration of trade in perishable and time sensitive shipments of agricultural products as result of implementation of SPS and TBT measures.

Six: Obligations that go beyond those in the WTO must be subject to TPP enforcement provisions, including in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary chapter. Since TPP members would not have recourse to WTO dispute settlement to enforce enhanced TPP disciplines, failure to include an enforcement mechanism would render new TPP disciplines valueless.

Seven: The agreement must be a single undertaking. All elements of the negotiation, including both tariff and nontariff SPS measures, are part of an indivisible package and cannot be agreed upon separately. In other words, nothing is finalized until everything is finalized.

These principles do not cover all elements of the TPP negotiations. They are intended to affirm those that must be upheld for the final TPP agreement to be judged worthy of the full support of the undersigned groups. In some cases, organizations' support of a TPP containing these core elements also hinges on attainment of key sector-specific priorities not cited above.