

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

June XX, 2017

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations, working collectively through the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade that represents the diverse food and agricultural sector, urge prompt confirmation of Gregg Doud as Chief Agricultural Negotiator, with the rank of Ambassador, in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

Thanks in large part to implementation of new trade agreements and the industry's efficient and innovative nature, U.S. food and agricultural exports have produced a trade surplus for nearly fifty years. Consistent growth over this period has resulted in over \$152 billion worth of exports, creating over \$193 billion in additional U.S. economic activity in 2016. These growing exports have increasingly become a vital share and important source of value to U.S. production, supporting more than 15 million jobs from coast-to-coast.

Trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), have in large part been a success for U.S. farmers, ranchers and food processors. As the Administration and Congress work together to identify constructive opportunities to strengthen U.S. competitiveness in the global market, such as modernizing NAFTA, it will remain critical to preserve what has worked well by building forward from the base of existing market access and tariff provisions. Therefore, it is imperative that we have a Chief Agriculture Negotiator in place immediately to ensure these efforts build off the success from the gains that have been achieved under agreements like NAFTA.

With the productivity of U.S. agriculture growing faster than domestic demand, the U.S. food and agriculture industry—and the rural communities that depend on it—relies heavily on export markets to sustain prices and revenues. Mr. Doud has a long history of working in U.S. agriculture, giving him the breadth of experience needed to affectively lead trade negotiations on behalf of the U.S. food and agriculture industry.

To ensure U.S. trade policy works in the best interests of the U.S. food and agriculture producers, we believe it is of utmost importance to confirm Mr. Doud as our next Chief Agriculture Negotiator as soon as possible. We look forward to working with Mr. Doud on efforts to develop and implement a U.S. trade policy that continues to promote America's food and agriculture producers and exporters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,