

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Chair  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Smith and Crapo and Ranking Members Neal and Wyden:

We are writing to urge your support for U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO contributes significantly to a strong, safe, and prosperous America.

America's food and agriculture community recognizes and agrees with certain concerns related to the functionality and balance of the WTO, particularly as they relate to non-market economies, such as China. However, the WTO has created meaningful economic and political stability that cannot be underestimated. Since the United States adopted major WTO agreements in 1994, for example, U.S. agricultural exports have grown from \$62 billion to nearly \$176 billion in 2024, as export subsidies were eliminated, trade distorting subsidies and tariffs reduced, tariff-rate quotas established for some commodities, border procedures became more efficient, and non-tariff barriers subject to new rules minimized disguised protectionism. U.S. agricultural exports make up approximately 20% of U.S. farm income, and substantially more for certain products. This growth would not have been possible without the rules-based framework created by the WTO to support market-based international trade, which has become the basis for all U.S. free trade agreements.

Notwithstanding the concerns we share with the WTO, a more pressing risk is the enhanced leadership role China is seeking on the international stage, and specifically within the WTO. In recent years, China has stepped up as a leader in the WTO by filing an increasing number of disputes, coalescing developing countries' positions related to e-commerce, and flaunting plurilateral negotiations on investment that could cement China's leadership in both the organization and the Eastern Hemisphere. Without a strong U.S. counter to China's actions within the WTO, the organization and its rules risk being reduced to a vehicle for China's continued economic and political growth internationally.

To continue feeding the world and growing food and agricultural products, the United States must step up and lead at the WTO. Without the WTO, our country will lose critical market access for American food and agricultural exports, but more importantly, we will lose the opportunity to build rules that allow us to feed the world. Challenges with the WTO's functionality need not result in a closing of markets to U.S. food and agriculture goods, nor a crisis with the United States' loss as a global leader within the WTO. Rather, we should take this opportunity to refocus and leverage the WTO in support of a market based global economy that makes America strong, safe and prosperous.

We therefore strongly urge you to maintain and strengthen the United States' role in the WTO and adamantly oppose U.S. withdrawal from the WTO. Thank you for your consideration of this request as its potential impact to American food and agriculture is significant.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
American Feed Industry Association	National Association of Wheat Growers
American Seed Trade Association	National Corn Growers Association
American Soybean Association	National Cotton Council
California League of Food Producers	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Corn Refiners Association	National Fisheries Institute
CropLife America	National Grain and Feed Association
Food Export-Midwest	National Milk Producers Federation
Food Export-Northeast	National Pork Producers Council
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas	National Turkey Federation
Independent Bakers Association	North American Export Grain Association
International Dairy Foods Association	North America Renderers Association
Meat Import Council of America	Sweetener Users Association

U.S. Dairy Export Council

USA Poultry & Egg Export Council

U.S. Wheat Associates

USA Rice

cc:

Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson and Ranking Member Angie Craig, House Committee on Agriculture

Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar, Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, & Forestry