

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Lighthizer,

We are writing you to express our strong concerns with the retaliatory tariffs that have been implemented by China on U.S. agricultural products. While we applaud your conviction to bring China's disingenuous trade practices to an end, the unfortunate reality is the repercussions of these actions will inevitably be borne on the backs of American Agriculture, especially in California.

California is home to an extremely diverse agriculture economy and has a reputation for being the breadbasket of America producing nearly \$45 billion in agricultural exports annually. In 2017 alone, California exported approximately \$28.5 billion in products to China. This includes forty six percent of the states exported pistachios, thirty five percent of its exported plums, twenty percent of its exported oranges, and twelve percent of its exported almonds.

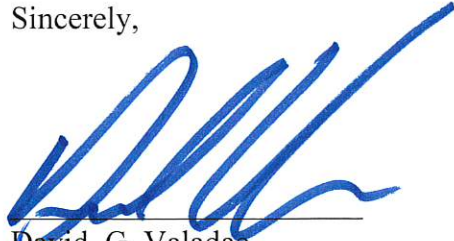
Agriculture is one of the few sectors where U.S. exporters run a surplus and makes an easy target in any international trade dispute. These numbers show just how much California farmers and ranchers rely upon access to export markets, which is where more than twenty percent of their production is ultimately consumed. China's decision to impose \$3 billion worth of tariffs on more than eighty agriculture products will have a long-lasting negative impact on our states hardworking farmers who are already struggling.

The currently proposed tariffs will not effectively advance our shared goal of changing China's harmful practices. As mandated by the Constitution, Congress must play a strong role in quickly mitigating this situation and we strongly encourage the Administration to develop and execute a strategic policy to effectively address the longstanding problems with China.

However, we respectfully urge the Administration to address these fundamental challenges through aligned efforts with our allies across the globe and abandon the current back and forth retaliation that will ultimately impact both rural and urban businesses in California and across the nation. Furthermore, it is imperative that we seek to improve access to our current export markets and pursue new markets to which our farmers can ship their products, not seek to utilize short-term remedies that will negate the impact of the current tariffs and interrupt business.

We appreciate your continued efforts on behalf of the American people and appreciate your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



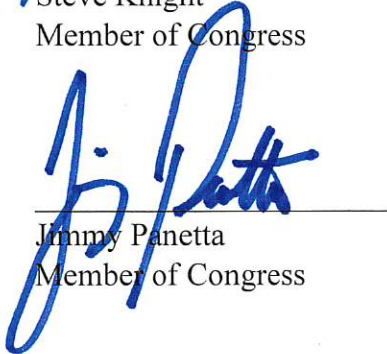
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



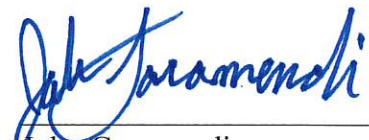
Steve Knight
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary United States Department of Agriculture