Dear Ambassador Lighthizer and Secretary Perdue:

The current global crisis has put a spotlight on the importance of advancing fairer trade rules in order to keep American-made food products moving reliably to markets overseas. We are writing today to underscore our concerns about a campaign by the European Union to misuse protections meant for geographical indications (GI) and to restrict the use of traditional wine terms in order to block competition from accurately labeled U.S. food and wine exports. This is a critical issue that erodes U.S. access to key markets overseas and poses a serious threat to the economic health of farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, and exporters here at home.

The European Union has used GIs to raise trade barriers for products labeled with common food terms, as well as traditional wine terms. Examples include, but are not limited to, bologna, parmesan, chateau, and feta. We urge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to draw upon the type of precedents and commitments established in the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA) to further strengthen protections for U.S. producers by negotiating agricultural market access safeguards for products marketed using specific common food terms, traditional terms, or legitimate plant and grape varietals in all future U.S. trade negotiations, particularly those of importance to U.S. cheese, meat, and wine producers. We view ongoing negotiations with the United Kingdom and Kenya as opportunities to further strengthen the U.S. position on common food names and traditional wine terms.

Without decisive action to build further upon the progress made to date on intellectual property measures, the European Union will continue to raise unfair trade barriers and seek to establish harmful GI policies in negotiations with our trading partners. It is, therefore, critical that USTR and USDA advance a consistent trade policy that prioritizes securing specific market access assurances for products that use common food terms, traditional terms, or the names of legitimate plant and grape varietals in all trade-related discussions.
On behalf of the farmers, ranchers, food and beverage manufacturers, and exporters we represent, thank you for the work that you have already accomplished on this issue. We look forward to working alongside your offices to further strengthen protections for food and wine producers.

Sincerely,

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress
Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

James R. Baird  
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress
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<td>Deb Haaland</td>
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Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

John Shimkus  
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Abigail D. Spanberger  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress