July 29, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman,

As the ministerial-level negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) continue this week, we write to express our strong support for our nation’s tobacco farmers. We appreciate your comments that the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is not seeking to discriminate against America’s tobacco farmers.

We, along with colleagues in both the House and Senate, believe that any unique or different treatment of tobacco or tobacco products would in fact discriminate against tobacco farmers. This includes, but is not limited to, a carve out for tobacco from the TPP’s Investor-State Dispute Settlement Chapter. Measures necessary to protect human health and/or public morals are already covered by exceptions found in U.S. and international (WTO) trade agreements. These provide the ability to currently protect public policy objectives.

We firmly believe that all agricultural exports and industries covered in the TPP should be afforded the same opportunities and protections. As you work to conclude negotiations, we sincerely hope you will uphold your commitment to our nation’s tobacco farmers.

Sincerely,

George Holding
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Todd Young
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress
Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress

Charles Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

Luke Messer  
Member of Congress

Dave Brat  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

Robert Hurt  
Member of Congress

Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress
Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

David Jolly
Member of Congress

Michael Simpson
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Hal Rogers
Member of Congress