The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th St NW,  
Washington, DC 20006  

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:  

We write to you about ongoing negotiations between the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Government of India. As you continue discussion with Prime Minister Modi’s Administration to reach a trade deal and potentially reinstate India’s Generalized System of Preference Status, we would like to stress the importance of removing existing barriers to the export of U.S. agricultural products, specifically pecans.  

As you may know, American pecan producers have faced many challenges due to rising imports from Mexico, Chinese tariffs, and Hurricane Michael’s impact on tree loss and 2018 crop production. Gaining access to new markets for pecans will help ease the pain while orchards are replanted and a trade deal is negotiated with China.  

The growing middle class in India has demonstrated its desire for consumer-oriented agricultural products, like tree nuts, and the Indian market represents one of the most dynamic and fastest growing in the world. Unfortunately, the current high tariff (36 percent) that India charges on pecan imports makes it difficult for American producers to compete in this important market. In contrast, we understand that the current Indian tariffs on U.S. pistachios and almonds is much lower (10 percent), which highlights how disproportionately high the pecan tariff is. Lowering the tariff on pecans would provide the Indian people with more economical access to tree nut varieties, while providing a much-needed economic boost to rural America.  

The pecan industry contributes over $3.57 billion to the economies of the 15 pecan producing states in the United States. Over the last ten years, exports alone have pumped an additional $1.25 billion in economic activity into rural America. Reducing trade barriers into India is an opportunity to strengthen the economy of rural America.  

Thank you for your work to expand access for American agricultural products around the world.  

Sincerely,  

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress  

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson, IV D.M.D.
Member of Congress

Earl L. “Buddy” Carter
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Vicente González
Member of Congress
Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
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Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
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Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress