

NEAL P. DUNN, MD  
2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0902

840 WEST 11TH STREET  
SUITE 2250  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 785-0812

300 SOUTH ADAMS STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
(850) 891-8610

423 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5235

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

As members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, we would like to express our support for the Administration's goal included in the *Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiations* to seek "a separate domestic industry provision for perishable and seasonable products" in antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) proceedings. That improvement is critically needed to ensure that the perishable and seasonal sectors in Florida, the Southeast, and the broader nation have viable access to remedies that address the unfair trading practices being used by importers of Mexican fresh fruits and vegetables.

Mexico's exponential growth in fresh fruit and vegetable exports to the United States under NAFTA has had a profoundly negative impact on Florida and other regions of the country, resulting in estimated losses of agricultural cash receipts of between \$1 to \$3 billion a year in Florida alone. To a great extent, it appears that Mexican fruit and vegetable producers have been able to achieve this extraordinary growth because of unfair Mexican subsidies and prices that are significantly below costs of production.

The new rules for seasonal and perishable products that are contemplated in the NAFTA negotiating objectives will ensure that these producers, who can only sell during certain periods of the year and are especially vulnerable to trade surges, have recourse to viable trade remedies when faced with unfair trade practice. New rules of this nature will also help fulfill the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPAA) objectives, which call for "eliminating practices that adversely affect trade in perishable or cyclical products, while improving import relief mechanisms to recognize the unique characteristics of perishable and cyclical agriculture."

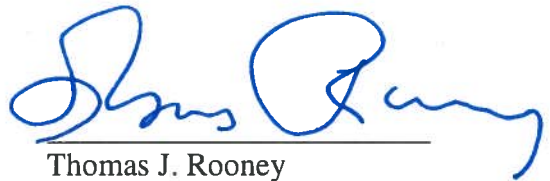
Because Mexico's unfair trade practices have become so unsustainable for Florida's fresh fruit and vegetable sector, the industry is also asking the Administration to consider using more near-term remedial tools to help correct Mexico's unfair trade practices. These include recourse to Department of Commerce AD/CVD self-initiation and monitoring authority and increased US Government advocacy to make clear to Mexico that its unfair pricing and subsidy practices are being monitored and will be subject to action if they continue.

We applaud the Administration's support for US perishable and seasonal sectors and stand ready to work with the Administration on improving trade remedy coverage for these sectors, as well as taking the other near-term steps needed to alleviate the Mexican unfair trading practices that are putting Florida and other regions of our nation's important fresh fruit and vegetable industry at risk.

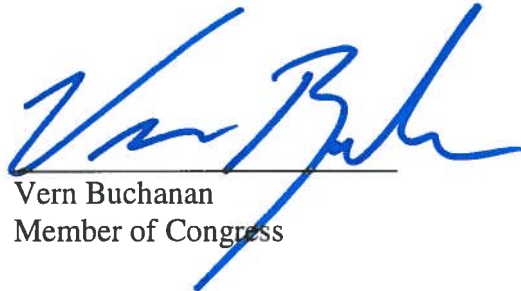
Sincerely,



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



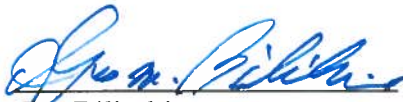
Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



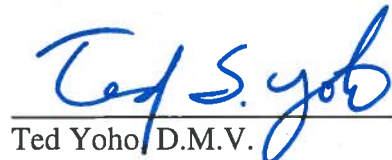
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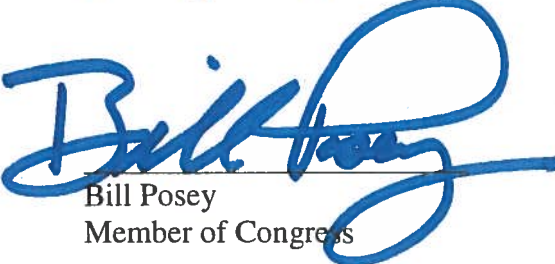
  
Daniel Webster  
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Member of Congress

  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

  
Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

  
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Sonny Perdue, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Mr. Ray Starling, White House Special Advisor for Agriculture and Trade