



American Farm Bureau Federation®



Emergency Committee
for American Trade



Sweetener Users
ASSOCIATION

NAMI NORTH AMERICAN
MEAT INSTITUTE

*Northwest
Horticultural Council*

May 20, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan:

The undersigned associations and companies strongly support H.R. 1314, the vehicle for Trade Promotion Authority. We represent the interests of leading agricultural and business enterprises representing a significant swath of the American economy.

We are concerned, however, about the amendments which may be added to H.R. 1314 which attempt to amend the U.S. trade remedy laws as administered by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) and the U.S. Department of Commerce. We are aware that there have been a number of recent efforts in Congress, including the Leveling the Playing Field Act, to amend the existing U.S. trade remedy laws, and we generally support efforts to improve those laws.

Trade remedy laws allow U.S. domestic producers to obtain trade relief from foreign exports when it has been shown, after a full U.S. government investigation by two distinct U.S. government agencies, that the goods have been imported in violation of the antidumping or countervailing duty standards and that a U.S. industry has been materially injured by these imports. These laws are extremely complicated to administer, both in substance and in terms of their specific procedures. For this very reason, they should not be amended without a full and fair discussion, involving both the domestic producers and the importing community, of how any changes to the laws would impact all affected parties.

For example, among the proposed trade remedy amendments at issue is a significant change to the "material injury" standard which would substantively affect the way the USITC conducts its injury assessment. Such a significant change in the fundamental standard applied in all trade remedy cases by the USITC should not be made without a full and fair discussion of the merits and disadvantages of such a change.

We recognize the importance of the trade remedy laws to address certain unfair trade practices and have worked in the past to make them more effective in substance and more efficient in terms of procedures. We feel strongly, however, that these amendments deserve to be carefully considered in the context of an overall review of the trade remedy laws. Only by allowing for a full and fair consideration of such potential revisions to the existing trade remedy laws can all interested parties receive a fair hearing on their views.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
Animal Health Institute
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Cargill, Incorporated
Corn Refiners Association
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Hanesbrands Inc.
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Retail Federation
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North American Meat Institute
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Sweetener Users Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association

cc: Angela Ellard and Steve Claeys