

March 26, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned food and agricultural organizations and companies strongly support the entry of Japan into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and urge the United States and the other members of the TPP to welcome Japan as a full member as quickly as possible.

The addition of Japan to the negotiations will exponentially increase the importance of the TPP to U.S. farmers and ranchers, processors and exporters as well as other sectors of the U.S. economy. Furthermore, it will spur interest in the TPP among other countries in Asia and Latin America. Finally, it will send a strong signal to other nations that efforts to negotiate more open and transparent regional trading arrangements will continue, even as multilateral efforts to do so are stymied.

Japan's economy is second only to China's in the region, and it is the United States' fourth largest agricultural export market overall, despite maintaining substantial import barriers. Our food and agricultural exports to Japan in 2012 totaled \$13.5 billion. Aside from Canada and Mexico, the next most important agricultural export market among the parties to the TPP is Vietnam, ranking 16th overall and totaling \$1.7 billion. Thus, Japan's entry into the TPP as a full partner greatly enhances the overall value of this momentous regional free trade agreement.

We understand that important issues will have to be tackled and resolved before a final TPP agreement can be successfully concluded. But we believe a comprehensive, high-standard agreement, as described and adopted by TPP leaders in November 2011, will result in an outcome that expands trade opportunities in all sectors and in all products to the benefit of each participating country.

We are pleased that Japan has embraced the opportunity to join the TPP. Moreover, we are very encouraged by the Joint Statement by the United States and Japan, issued by the White House Office of the Press Secretary on February 22, 2013, stating: "The two Governments confirm that should Japan participate in the TPP negotiations, all goods would be subject to negotiation, and Japan would join others in achieving a comprehensive, high-standard agreement, as described in the Outlines of the TPP Agreement announced by TPP Leaders on November 12, 2011."

We call on the United States and the other TPP countries to quickly welcome Japan into the TPP. We look forward to working closely with the Administration and Congress to fashion an agreement that the U.S. food and agricultural sector, represented by the signatories to this letter, can strongly endorse.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute

American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Blue Diamond Growers
California Cherry Export Association
California Dried Plum Board
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fig Advisory Committee
California Poultry Federation
California Table Grape Commission
California Walnut Commission
Cargill, Incorporated
Commodity Markets Council
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
Corn Refiners Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Georgia Poultry Federation
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hormel Foods Corporation
International Dairy Foods Association
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Farmers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
North Carolina Poultry Federation
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North American Meat Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Seaboard Foods
Smithfield Foods
Sunsweet Growers Inc.

Sweetener Users Association
Tyson Foods, Inc.
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
U.S. Meat Export Federation
U.S. Wheat Associates
United Egg Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
US Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Valley Fig Growers
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers Association