

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 200500

Dear Mr. President:

The recent omnibus appropriations act reversed implementation of a pilot program which allowed inspected trucks from Mexico to travel into the United States. As a result, the Government of Mexico implemented retaliatory measures in response to the policy change, and many value-added goods now face high tariffs of up to 45%. Over a third of the tariff lines targeted include agricultural products, and the overall retaliation will add \$2.4 billion to the cost of U.S. exports to Mexico.

The U.S. Agricultural industry depends on reliable access to foreign markets. Agricultural exports account for one-fourth of cash receipts on U.S. farms, and one third or more of fresh grapes, dried plums, raisins, sweet corn, and walnuts are exported. In spite of the importance of trade to Agriculture, many of those impacted by these new tariffs are the same exporters that would suffer from the dramatic cuts to the Market Access Program proposed in the Administration's budget. Instead of swift and decisive action to promote U.S. exports, the combination of these shortsighted policy changes endangers family farms across America.

Safety on America's roadways should be paramount in addressing this situation. However, at a time when our economy is already struggling, American growers and processors will continue to lose millions of dollars and essential market share until our international obligations are met and these tariffs are lifted.

While the situation is unfortunate, it does offer another opportunity to resolve this issue once and for all. I urge you to work expeditiously with Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and industry stakeholders to find a permanent solution to this issue and uphold our commitments to our third largest trading partner. I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

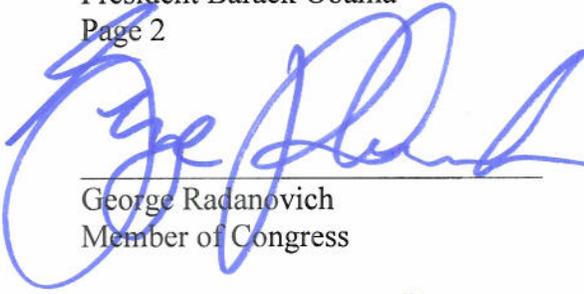
Sincerely,



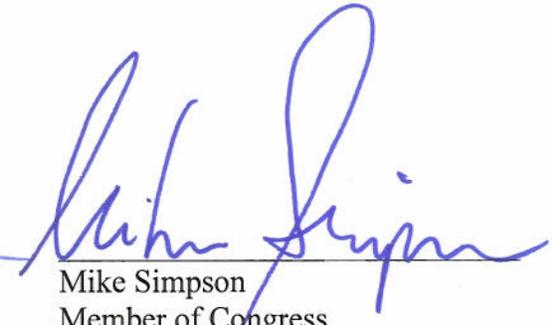
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



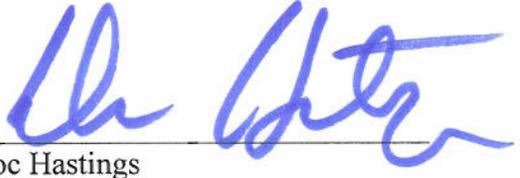
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Radanovich".

George Radanovich
Member of Congress

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Simpson".

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings".

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress