

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2018

Excellency Virachai Plasai
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United States
Embassy of Thailand
1024 Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador Plasai:

We write to express our concerns over unfair trade restrictions the Kingdom of Thailand is placing on U.S. goods.

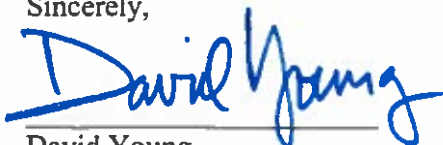
In the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) most recent listing of foreign trade barriers, much of the extensive section covering Thailand is devoted to restrictions on imports of agricultural products. Meanwhile, Thailand's exports to the United States are relatively unencumbered and often face low or zero tariffs.

As you may know, Thailand is the second largest user of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, with \$3.9 billion in U.S. imports from Thailand benefitting from GSP tariff savings in 2016.

The GSP renewal legislation passed by Congress in the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act contains a new requirement directing the USTR annually to prepare a report on the extent to which GSP beneficiary countries are meeting the statutory eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria include providing reciprocal market access for U.S. products. Today, it appears that Thailand fails this test. This is why USTR announced last week their acceptance of the National Pork Producers Council's request to review Thailand's GSP benefits.

We are strong supporters of the GSP program because it benefits U.S. businesses and consumers through tariff savings while also supporting U.S. development objectives through robust enforcement of the GSP eligibility criteria. It is our hope that Thailand and all beneficiary countries will continue making progress toward meeting the GSP eligibility criteria in order to maintain full participation. As U.S. Representatives representing congressional districts in some of the largest pork producing states in the United States, we ask Thailand to remove its restrictions on imports of U.S. farm products, including its ban on imports of U.S. pork. If significant progress is not made, we anticipate that the United States may soon consider whether it is appropriate to suspend some of Thailand's GSP benefits in order to ensure better compliance with the letter and spirit of the eligibility criteria. We hope to work cooperatively so that this step is not necessary.

Sincerely,



David Young
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

David Rouzer

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Rod Blum

Rod Blum
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Mark Walker

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Ken Buck

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Steve King

Steve King
Member of Congress

George Holding

George Holding
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Mike Bost

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Luke Messer

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

Jim Sensenbrenner

Jim Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks

Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



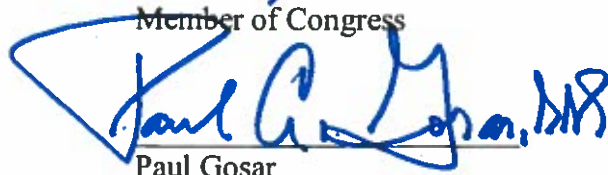
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress




Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



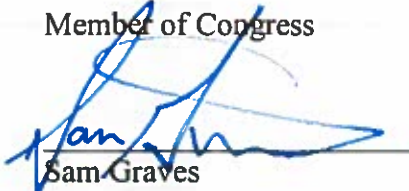
John Shimkus
Member of Congress



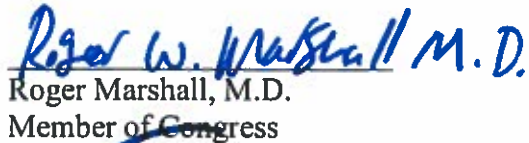
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



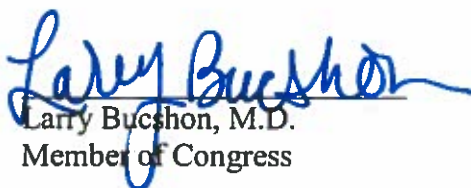
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



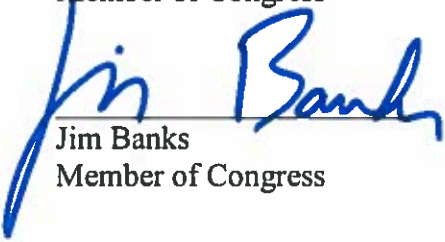
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



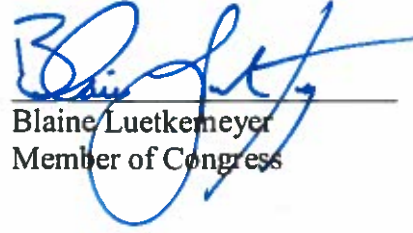
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress