

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We are encouraged by the Administration's recent efforts to reopen the Chinese beef trade market, and are pleased you have made lifting the Chinese ban on U.S. poultry products one of your top priorities as Agriculture Secretary. In January 2015, China banned all poultry products from the United States due to the detection of a wild duck with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). More than two years later, China continues to enforce this ban, which is inconsistent with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards. As a result, U.S. poultry producers have been negatively affected by the loss of this burgeoning export market.

The poultry industry provides thousands of high quality jobs in our rural communities and the reopening of the Chinese market would provide a huge boost for these rural areas. We encourage you to remain focused on the next steps to officially reopen the Chinese market as soon as possible. Expanding market access in growing regions in the Asia Pacific, especially China, is essential for our poultry producers and will result in the creation of new jobs and higher wages in rural communities. We are hopeful for a swift process and offer our strong support as you and your staff continue to work to reopen this critical export market for poultry produced in the United States.

We understand and are encouraged that China has begun its animal health audit of the U.S. poultry industry. Once this audit is completed, we encourage USDA to remain diligent in seeking final Chinese approval for U.S. poultry's first successful shipment as quickly as possible. Poultry products are often part of the Chinese New Year celebrations, and our farmers would very much like to be able to offer their products during that time.

With the productivity of U.S. agriculture exceeding domestic demand, the U.S. food and agriculture industry—and the rural communities which depend on it—rely heavily on export markets to sustain prices and revenues. Poultry is produced in almost every state. For communities and states that rely on a thriving and growing poultry industry, these agreements are essential to a strong and vibrant future.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the status of this important negotiation.

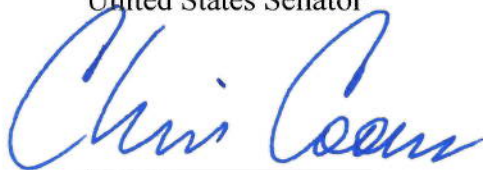
Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



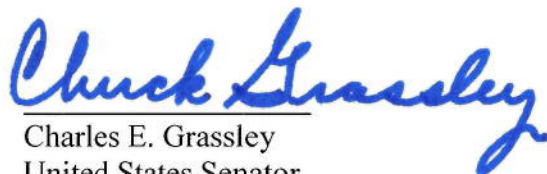
Thad Cochran
United States Senator



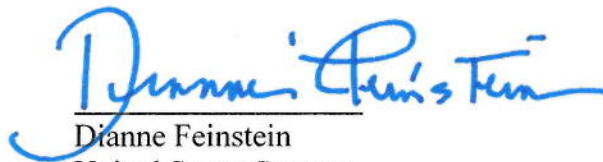
Chris Coons
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



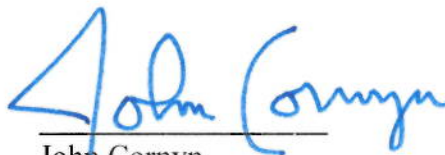
Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



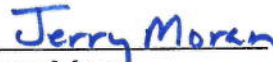
Roger Wicker
United States Senator



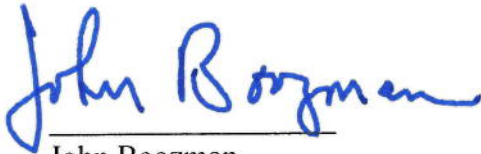
Al Franken
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



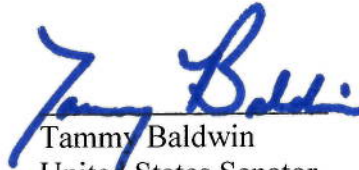
John Boozman
United States Senator



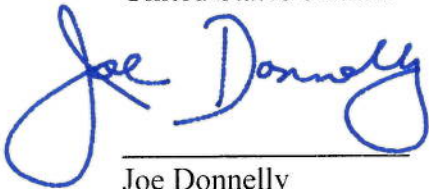
John Hoeven
United States Senator



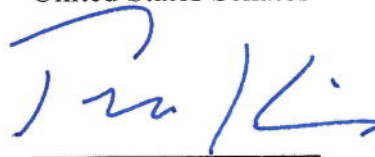
Michael S. Lee
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



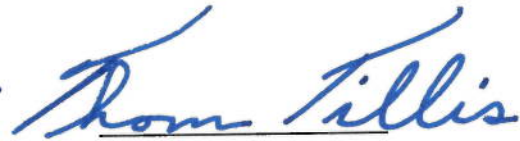
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



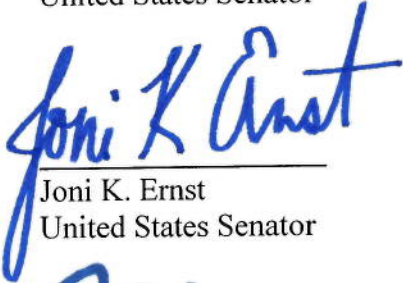
M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



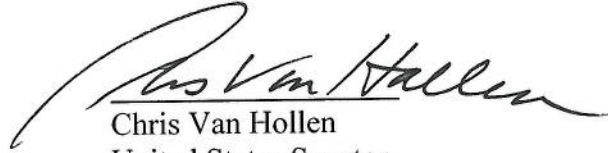
David Perdue
United States Senator



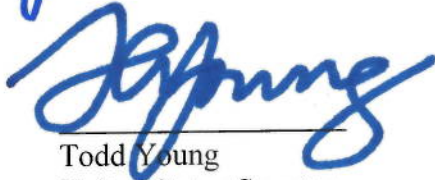
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



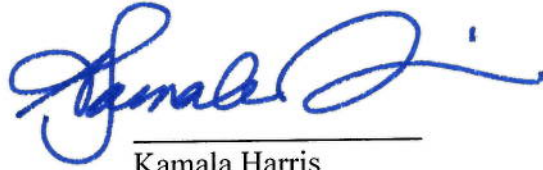
Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



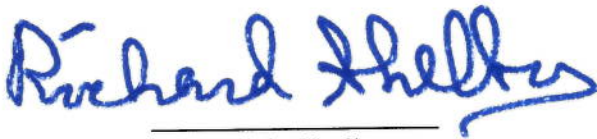
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



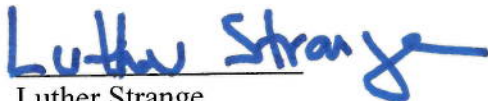
Kamala Harris
United States Senator



Richard C. Shelby
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Luther Strange
United States Senator