

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the United State Trade Representative
600 17th St, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Tai, Secretary Raimondo, and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (USFADT), we write to express our appreciation for your leadership and support for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). Engagement in the Indo-Pacific region is critical for the sustainability of American rural communities and well-paying food and agriculture-related jobs across the country, as well as the broader domestic economy.

The U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade has a broad cross-section of over 200 companies, associations and organizations that represent virtually every facet of the food and agriculture supply chain. It seeks to support and advance progress in U.S. international relationships that expand trade, provide for increased export opportunity and foster economic growth and job creation.

The Indo-Pacific is a critically important region for American farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and workers. As agreements like the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CP-TPP), the Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) and other free trade deals are fully implemented in the Indo-Pacific, it is all the more critical that the U.S. government meaningfully engage on economic matters in the region. The Dialogue supports an IPEF that builds on the global rules-based trading system to promote fair and sustainable trading practices for U.S. food and agricultural exports, which increases market access, eliminates tariff barriers, and addresses unjustifiable non-tariff barriers to trade.

Improving U.S. farmers, ranchers, food and agribusiness competitiveness in the region is dependent on having a level playing field with regard to tariffs, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical barriers to trade and other essential provisions, but also ensuring countries adhere to a science- and evidence-based approach to regulatory matters, operate functioning import licensing and programs to facilitate trade, and remove unwarranted restrictions.

Many of the Dialogue's participants will be submitting detailed and product specific comments through USTR's March 11, 2022, *Federal Register* notice. Submissions for USTR's 2022 National Trade Estimate also provide detailed information on the range of barriers impacting U.S. food and agricultural exports. For purposes of this letter, we request that the following key objectives be priorities for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to create a fairer and more resilient trading system:

- Increase market access for the U.S. food and agricultural sector;
- Promote science and evidence-based regulations, including using international standards, to support the implementation of SPS measures that are non-trade distorting;
- Enhance transparency and allow public input on all regulations and practices, including public stock holding affecting food and agriculture exports and imports;
- Resolve technical barriers that restrict our ability to more fully access markets, including restrictions on marketing, intellectual property, branding and domestic content requirements;
- Ensure import licensing systems function in a predictable and timely manner and are not used as disguised restrictions on trade;
- Ensure that other unwarranted barriers are not created in the future;
- Ensure access for U.S. food and agricultural exports with common names;
- Eliminate the tariff differentials imposed on U.S. food and agricultural exports and those provided to U.S. competitors;
- Secure commitments by our trading partners that are enforceable; and,
- Include as many countries as possible, including ASEAN countries.

The U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade looks forward to working with the Administration to deepen economic ties with the Indo-Pacific region and providing additional input throughout the process.

Thank you,

Michael Anderson
Co-Chair USFADT

Audrae Erickson
Co-Chair USFADT

cc: Mr. Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor