

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 21, 2020

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

Thank you for your work on behalf of American farmers and ranchers to promote a fair and level playing field for them in the global marketplace.

During a June 2020 Senate Finance Committee hearing, you mentioned the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) “has benefits, but needs changes.” We would like to express our support for the USA Rice Federation’s petition to remove all rice tariff lines from the list of eligible commodities for duty-free access to the U.S. under GSP.

We understand GSP is meant to be a win-win for both the U.S. and our trading partners, but unfortunately in the case of rice, our biggest competitors on the world stage have taken advantage of the program for far too long. Over the past several years, we have seen an annual uptick in rice imports from countries that have GSP eligibility. Coupled with our competitors’ high and rising domestic subsidies, these unfair advantages are having negative implications for our rice farmers, millers, merchants and allied businesses, who are losing domestic market share.

As you continue your efforts to promote fair and free trade, we encourage you to remove rice from the GSP eligibility list.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
United States Senate



Tom Cotton
United States Senate



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate



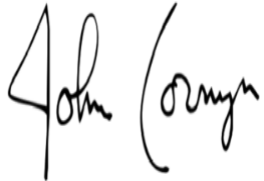
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senate



John Kennedy
United States Senate



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate



John Cornyn
United States Senate