

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 16, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your continued work to support American farmers and ranchers by helping to protect our domestic market and develop new markets across the world. The biggest hurdle to both domestic and export sales are challenges to U.S. competitiveness. American rice and wheat producers are operating at a clear disadvantage compared to their competitors, primarily from India, where the government is subsidizing more than half of the value of production for rice and wheat, instead of the 10 percent allowable under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. As a result, we ask that you take immediate action to reverse India's trend of non-compliance with WTO domestic support requirements by initiating a dispute settlement case.

Beginning in 2018, the U.S. highlighted the problem of non-compliance in India through counter-notifications at the WTO Committee on Agriculture. Using virtually the same methodology endorsed by the WTO panel in the China domestic support case, the counter-notifications demonstrated that India is non-compliant with its commitments as a result of price supports alone. Further, India has raised support prices multiple times since the counter-notifications were first submitted. Additionally, in October, India announced they will provide an additional \$3.8 billion to fertilizer companies as compensation for reduced prices of agricultural inputs to shield their rice and wheat growers from rising input costs.

We support growing a strong trade relationship between the United States and India and believe that one can be fostered. However, the playing field must be level for that to be accomplished. Trade distorting domestic support has always been a major challenge for U.S. farmers, and WTO rules were created to limit these practices. This behavior continues in spite of multiple U.S. requests of India to reform its price support programs. Thus, we encourage you to swiftly initiate the WTO litigation process through a request for consultations. Your attention and prioritization of this urgent matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

JOHN BOOZMAN
US Senator

JOHN CORNYN
US Senator

MIKE BRAUN
US Senator

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
US Senator

TOM COTTON
US Senator

KEVIN CRAMER
US Senator

TED CRUZ
US Senator

STEVE DAINES
US Senator

JONI K. ERNST
US Senator

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
US Senator

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
US Senator

JOHN HOEVEN
US Senator

JIM INHOFE
US Senator

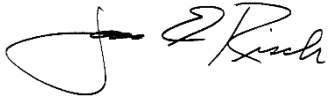
JOHN KENNEDY
US Senator



ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
US Senator



JERRY MORAN
US Senator



JAMES E. RISCH
US Senator



ROGER F. WICKER
US Senator