

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Ambassador Ron Kirk  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary LaHood and Ambassador Kirk:

We are writing to express our concern about the lack of action and transparency by the United States Trade Representative and the Department of Transportation to address tariffs imposed by Mexico on U.S. agricultural and manufacturing products in response to the removal of the cross-border trucking pilot program. These tariffs have had a devastating impact on our local industries and area economies. Therefore, given the importance of this matter to our constituents, we urge you to immediately implement a plan of action to rectify this situation.

As you know, Congress terminated funding for the cross-border trucking pilot program with Mexico in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The resulting retaliation from Mexico, including import duties on over 90 products, has left farmers and manufacturers scrambling. These goods have faced Mexican import tariffs between 10 and 45 percent for almost a year.

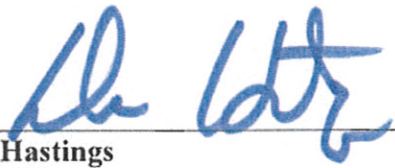
Over the past 11 months, Administration officials have repeatedly expressed confidence that a resolution to the current dispute could be found that would fulfill our obligations to Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement. President Obama expressed his commitment to resolving the issue to President Calderon during their meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico in August, 2009. However, to date, the Administration has not shared any of the principles or the parameters of a proposed plan. Finally, in the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Bill, Congress chose not to continue the funding limitation for the pilot program.

The current situation is unsustainable and untenable. Our constituents need help immediately and we implore you to work quickly to implement a solution that ensures safety and normalizes trade between the U.S. and Mexico. Please communicate your plans for a solution so that we are better able to understand the Administration's strategy to address this matter and resolve this situation permanently. Our constituents need to move forward.

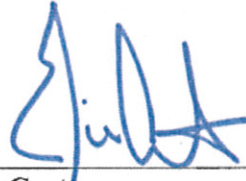
Sincerely,

  
Dennis Cardoza

  
Rick Larsen



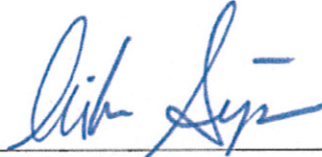
Doc Hastings



Jim Costa



Greg Walden



Michael K. Simpson



K. Michael Conaway



George Radanovich



Jim McDermott



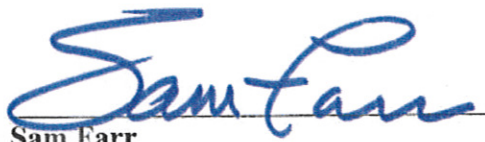
Eddie Bernice Johnson



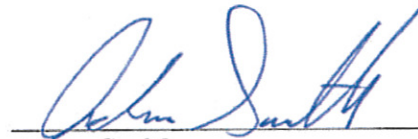
Devin Nunes



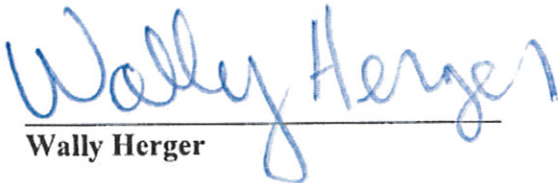
David G. Reichert



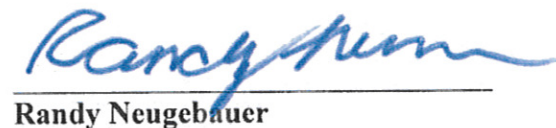
Sam Farr



Adam Smith



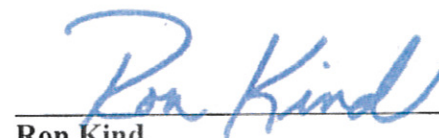
Wally Herger



Randy Neugebauer



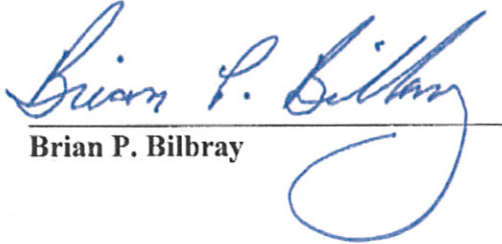
Walt Minnick



Ron Kind

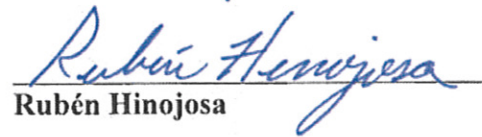
  
Mike Thompson

  
Jerry McNerney

  
Brian P. Bilbray

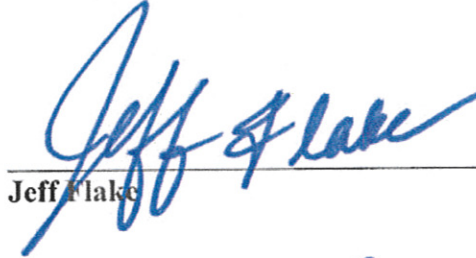
  
Henry Cuellar

  
Judy Biggert

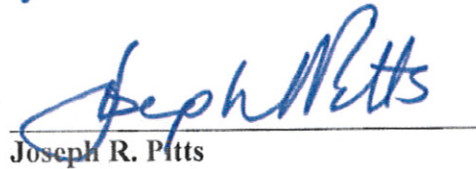
  
Rubén Hinojosa

  
Robert E. Latta

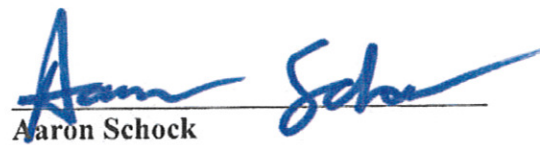
  
Bobby Bright

  
Jeff Flake

  
Eric J.J. Massa

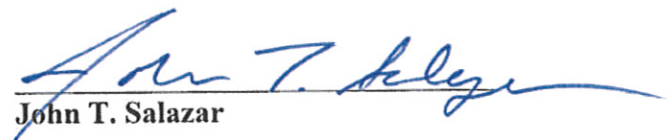
  
Joseph R. Pitts

  
Daniel E. Lungren

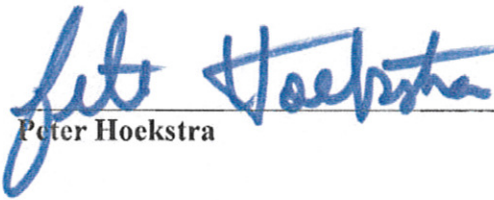
  
Aaron Schock

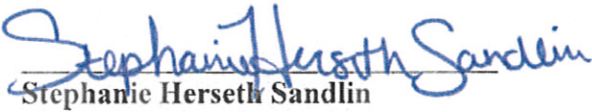
  
Melissa L. Bean

  
Earl Pomeroy

  
John T. Salazar


  
Jeb Hensarling

  
Peter Hoekstra

  
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

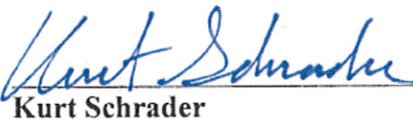
  
Kevin Brady

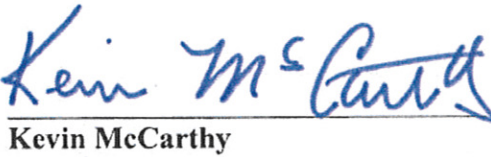
  
Christopher John Lee

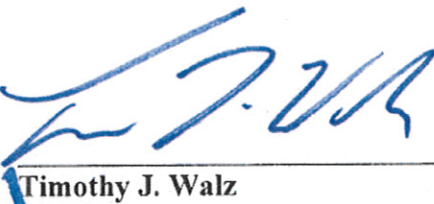
  
William L. Owens

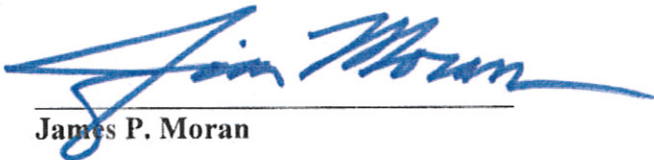
  
Steven C. LaTourette

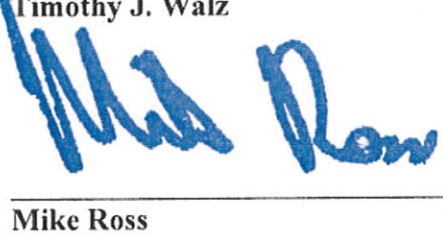
  
Larry Kissell

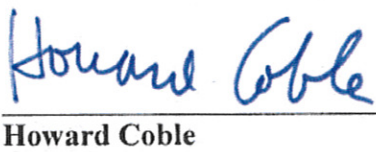
  
Kurt Schrader

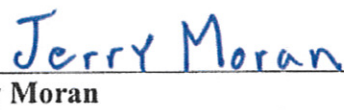
  
Kevin McCarthy

  
Timothy J. Walz

  
James P. Moran

  
Mike Ross

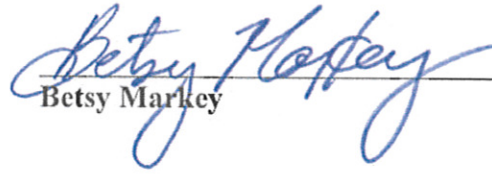
  
Howard Coble

  
Jerry Moran

  
Mary Bono Mack



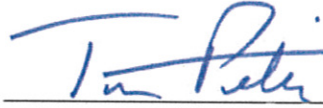
Gabrielle Giffords



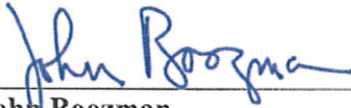
Betsy Markey



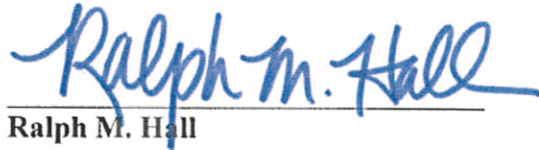
Edward R. Royce



Thomas E. Petri



John Boozman



Ralph M. Hall

Cc:

Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Aviation, Department of Transportation

Miriam Sapiro, Deputy Ambassador for Europe, Middle East and the Americas