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STATE OF WISCONSIN

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April 17, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Agriculture is a big part of the Wisconsin economy. We are number one in cheese, cranberries, and ginseng. In fact, Wisconsin ranks near the top in almost every agricultural category: milk, corn, soybeans, potatoes and other vegetables, cherries, apples and beef. We are proud of our rich agricultural history and look forward to our growing agricultural future.

Agriculture alone has a more than \$88 billion impact on the Wisconsin economy. Trade is a driving force in our success in agriculture. Specifically, our growing trade with China has given critical new opportunities to farmers in Wisconsin. In 2017, Wisconsin exported nearly \$300 million of agricultural products to China, an increase of more than 27% over the year before.

I want to make it clear that farmers in my state and others involved in agriculture absolutely need strong trade to be successful and - in many cases - to survive. While bad actors need to be held accountable, we must be wary not to cause damage to our farmers through an escalating trade war. Unfortunately, China has specifically targeted major Wisconsin products in their retaliatory tariffs.

China has placed tariffs of 15 and 25 percent on major, Wisconsin products like cranberries, soybeans, and ginseng. This hurts people like farmers in Marathon County who produce approximately 85 percent of all ginseng in the country and send nearly half of their exports to China.

We need to not only keep our current trading partners but actually increase the amount of international agricultural trade we do. In January, at Ag Day in Madison, Wisconsin, I signed an Executive Order to broaden our work to expand markets for Wisconsin agricultural products around the world.

Now is a critical time as prices for agricultural products are down. Farm families across the country are hurting. Growing up in a small town where much of the economy was related to agriculture and having a mother who was raised on a farm, I know that farming is more than just a job; it's a way of life.

In Wisconsin, we can help our farm families by continuing to grow markets for their products. To do so, we need take steps that look out for the American farmer - particularly the many women and men involved in agriculture from my state. Please help us maintain our current trading partners and grow new ones.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Walker
Governor, State of Wisconsin