

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

We are writing today regarding India's position to deny access to U.S. poultry into the Indian market. Our constituent poultry processors inform us that they are being prevented from realizing significant opportunities in a market with great potential. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you take immediate action to resolve this longstanding issue.

We have been advised that, although India uses a variety of measures to prohibit the importation of U.S. poultry, the primary issue involves India's position on the viral disease avian influenza (AI). Evidently, India makes no distinction between low-pathogenic AI and the highly-pathogenic AI, making India's ban on U.S. poultry inconsistent with World Health Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has in place comprehensive and rigorous programs to prevent, control, and eradicate AI in poultry and prevent the spread to the human population.

In fact, our poultry production sector asserts that the United States' track-record on AI is unsurpassed. Despite the very effective U.S. measures in place for AI, India continues to prohibit access to their market.

Industry analysts estimate that U.S. poultry exports to India could exceed \$300 million annually, if appropriate market access was provided in accordance with India's obligations as a member of the WTO. With two of the United States' top poultry markets having been severely disrupted in the past three years, it is especially important that efforts be undertaken to regain market share and India is a good place to start.

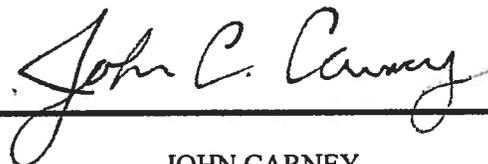
We respectfully request that, during your upcoming discussions with the government of India, you convey that the uses of such measures to prevent trade are WTO-inconsistent and that the U.S. Government will seek to enforce its rights.

We look forward to working with you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



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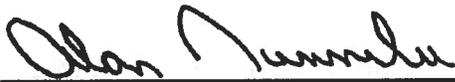
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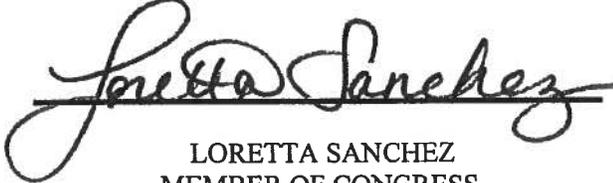
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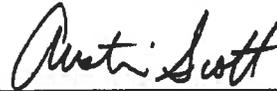
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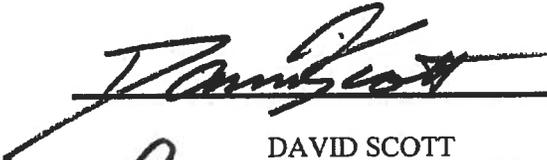
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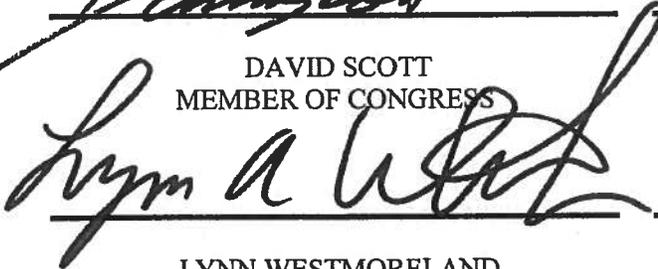
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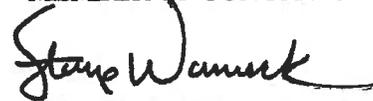
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