



May 10, 2013

**Mr. David Weiner
Deputy Assistant USTR for Europe
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508**

Dear Mr. Weiner:

On behalf of the members of the National Farmers Union (NFU), thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the potential negotiations of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union.

NFU takes a broad approach when considering the merits of trade policy. Trade agreement terms should not simply be limited to regulating domestic support levels, export subsidies and market access. Trade agreements must also address differences in labor standards, environmental standards, health standards, the trade-distorting effect of currency manipulation, and cartelization of markets. Countries participating in trade agreements should maintain control of their own domestic programs and agreements must not force participants to cede their sovereignty.

Trade deficits have become the norm for the United States in recent decades. Much more attention must be paid to the balance of trade, rather than only the gross exports. Imports must also be considered. We firmly believe that in order to achieve sustainable, long-term growth, the U.S. must become a net exporter for not only agriculture, but overall. If the TTIP is ever finalized and implemented, the terms of the agreement must make strides toward improving our balance of trade.

The TTIP should respect governments' ability to implement programs that ensure farmers and other workers receive fair compensation. Likewise, consumers must have access to reliably safe and affordable foods. Participants in the agreement must be able to protect themselves from dumping and other unfair trade practices that force farmers off their land.

The TTIP should establish minimum standards for environmental, food and product safety, and consumer information. These important considerations should not be limited, and terms of any agreement should not prohibit countries from enacting measures that protect their citizens' safety.

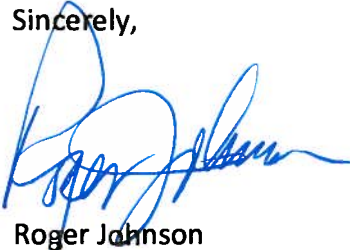
The agreement should not limit the regulation of banks, insurance companies, hedge funds and other financial service providers. Services provisions must have clear and specific language stating that nothing in the agreement should require forced deregulation or privatization of a public service.

The TTIP should allow governments to prioritize local development, environmental and social goals. Procurement preferences for "Buy American," green manufacturing, and sweatshop-free production must be allowed. Countries should be able to show preferential treatment towards trading partners with high prevailing wage requirements and human rights standards.

As a member of the of the World Farmers Organisation, which recently approved the attached comprehensive trade policy, NFU urges the negotiators to adhere to the principles highlighted above and to keep the best interests of family farmers in mind.

Thank you for your consideration of these concepts and I look forward to future opportunities for comment in the event a negotiation with the European Union continues.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson
President

Enclosure: World Farmers Organisation Policy on International Trade (Adopted April 10, 2013)