



April 14, 2025

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the family farmer and rancher members of National Farmers Union (NFU), I urge you to support the *Trade Review Act of 2025* (S.1272, H.R.2665), bipartisan legislation introduced by Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE-02) and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05).

Family farmers and ranchers are facing historic levels of uncertainty. Market prices for most commodities are down and the agriculture economy is faltering. American farmers depend on export markets and strong relationships with our trading partners to drive demand for our products. But recent tariff announcements, and subsequent abrupt reversals, have only increased uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. We need congressional oversight of tariffs and trade policy to ensure measures are thoughtful and positively impact the agriculture economy. If enacted, this bill would reassert Congress' authority to review and approve any new tariffs imposed by the President.

Family farmers and ranchers always bear the brunt of a trade war. Tariffs force our long-time trading partners, developed after years of market expansion efforts funded by both taxpayers and farmers themselves, to retaliate with tariffs on American agricultural goods and thus turn to other countries for cheaper agricultural products. As we saw during the trade war with China in 2018 and 2019, once lost, these markets do not return.

As many farmers are beginning planting season, they must confront difficult decisions based on the potential impact of losing the biggest export market for many of their crops. China alone spent \$24.65 billion on U.S. agricultural products just last year and since the 2018-19 trade war other countries like Brazil have increased their sales to China—a permanent loss for American farmers. Now with China raising its retaliatory tariffs on all American products to a staggering 125%, all American agricultural goods will be significantly more expensive in China. This adds to the already existing monopolistic behavior by China that is already affecting U.S. agriculture. Currently, China dominates global shipbuilding, with a large percentage of vessels at U.S. ports being Chinese built, including those vessels used to transport U.S. agricultural products. As a result, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) China Section 301 proposal to impose fees on Chinese built vessels means that U.S. farmers will

be forced to pay the additional export costs. Making matters worse, many of our agricultural inputs, like fertilizer and steel for farm equipment, are also produced in China or exclusively overseas and subject to the administration's tariffs. At a time when farmers are receiving lower market prices for their goods, they are also forced to pay more for the inputs they need to put a crop in the ground. With the knowledge of how farmers were affected by the last global trade war, family farmers and ranchers are bracing for historic losses like those incurred in 2018 and 2019.

NFU supports fair and transparent trade practices where the ultimate power to levy tariffs rests with Congress. The U.S. Constitution explicitly vests Congress with the power to "lay and collect taxes, duties, imports, and excises," and our system of checks and balances is set in place to do just that. Congress has the authority to weigh the cost and benefits of such actions and, even in times of emergency, tariffs set by any U.S. president should still be subject to a 60-day post-enactment review and ratification vote by Congress. Additionally, prohibiting Congress' ability to amend or filibuster has a direct impact on U.S. agriculture, especially where agriculture makes up only one part of a trade agreement

I urge you to stand with family farmers and ranchers by supporting the *Trade Review Act of 2025*. This bill will provide the oversight and direction needed to advance and safeguard our trade policy to the benefit of American agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Larew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rob" and "Larew" being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Larew  
President