

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer:

We write to strongly urge you to utilize Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to investigate unfair and discriminatory trade practices by foreign sugar-producing countries. These practices have led to global excess capacity of foreign subsidized sugar and more than a 700% increase in out-of-quota (tier two) sugar imports into the United States between fiscal years 2021 and 2025 compared to the prior five-year average, causing direct harm to our constituents. If USTR determines the conduct is actionable, we urge you to take appropriate action to help level the playing field and protect American sugarbeet and sugarcane farmers, processors, refiners, and factory workers from being undercut by discriminatory foreign trade practices.

The sugar farming families and workers across our States support more than 151,000 jobs in more than two dozen states while generating more than \$23 billion in economic activity each year. We are gravely concerned about the surge in unfairly traded foreign sugar imports, which, along with higher input costs, are plunging the domestic industry into crisis and presenting an imminent threat to the industry's long-term viability.

Our domestic sugar producers are an integral part of our overall domestic agricultural industry, ensuring that American consumers have access to a low-cost, safe, and abundant domestic food supply. Congress has long recognized that the global sugar market is one of the most distorted in the world due to high subsidization and other predatory trade practices. U.S. sugar policy is a necessary response to a global playing field where foreign countries routinely sell sugar at well below the world cost of production. Congress has long supported our domestic sugar policy which is a combination of loans that producers fully repay each year, flexible domestic marketing allotments, tariff rate quotas permitting specified volumes of near duty-free imports, suspension agreements with Mexico, and effective tier two tariffs that are intended to prevent excess supply of cheaper global sugar from destabilizing the U.S. market.

The tier two duty rates were established in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture in 1994, which were gradually reduced to their current levels in 2000, have unfortunately become wholly ineffective in protecting our domestic industry from excess foreign supply. In fact, the 15.36 cents per pound tier two tariff has lost nearly half of its real value due to inflation. Record levels of unfairly traded sugar have entered the U.S. since 2023, flooding the domestic market, depressing prices, jeopardizing the financial stability of our domestic producers, and threatening

forfeitures. In fact, a recently released study by North Dakota State University (NDSU) that quantifies The Price Effects of Over-Quota Sugar Imports on the U.S. Domestic Market uses “two independent analytical methods [to] indicate that over-quota sugar imports depressed U.S. domestic raw sugar prices by approximately 5 to 8 cents per pound during FY2025-FY2026.” It goes on to state that “the estimated annual revenue losses to domestic producers [are] \$0.9 billion to \$1.5 billion, and \$1.1 billion to \$1.7 billion after accounting for the amplified pass-through to refined prices in the beet segment. If the same refined pass-through is applied to integrated cane operations, the total rises to \$1.3 billion to \$1.8 billion.”

Moreover, if appropriate based on the result of an investigation, a Section 301 action to address unfair foreign trade practices by global sugar producers would not increase costs on American consumers. Peer-reviewed research published in the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics confirms that there is no statistically significant relationship between U.S. sugar prices and retail food prices, because sugar accounts for only 2.56 percent of the retail price of the average sugar-containing product despite comprising 48 percent of its weight. The study found that retail prices for candy, baked goods, cereals, and sugar-sweetened beverages are driven by disposable income, firm earnings pressure, and product characteristics — not by the cost of sugar.

In the past 10 years, 14% of our nation’s beet sugar processing facilities and 12% of our domestic cane sugar mills and refineries have closed, including the complete loss of sugarbeet farming in California (2025) and sugarcane farming in Hawaii (2016) and Texas (2024). Absent action to protect the domestic sugar industry from discriminatory foreign trade practices, these continued revenue losses will only mount, threatening the future existence of domestic U.S. sugar production.

We strongly urge you to investigate these unfair trading practices that disadvantage our domestic sugar industry and take decisive action as appropriate. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to protect our domestic industries from unfair trade practices.

Sincerely,



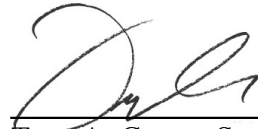
John Hoeven
United States Senator



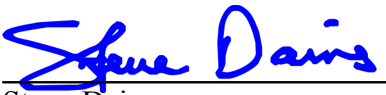
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



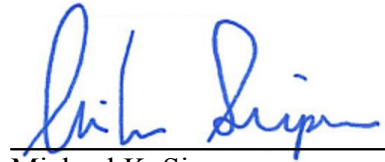
Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator



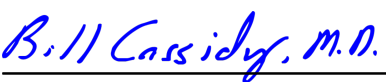
Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



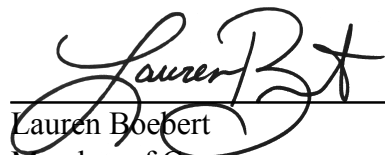
Tim Sheehy
United States Senator



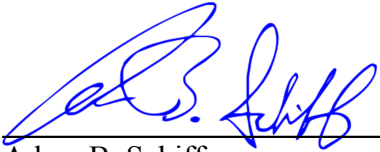
Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



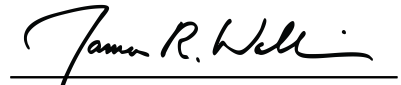
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Cliff Bentz
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Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



James R. Walkinshaw
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Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Troy Downing
Member of Congress



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress




M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



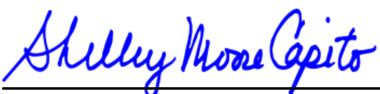
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



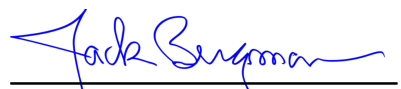
John Kennedy
United States Senator



Salud Carbajal
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Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Russ Fulcher
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James E. Risch
United States Senator



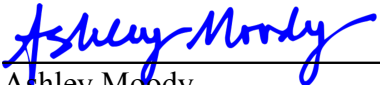
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Cynthia M. Lummis
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Darren Soto
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Ashley Moody
United States Senator



Doris Matsui
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John Hickenlooper
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Dan Newhouse
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John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



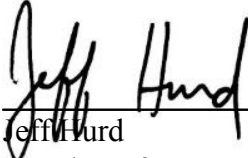
Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



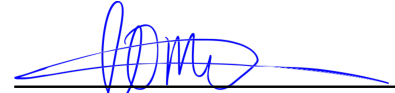
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture



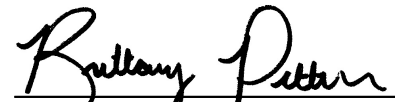
Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



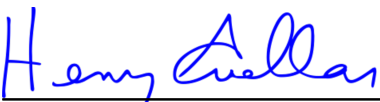
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



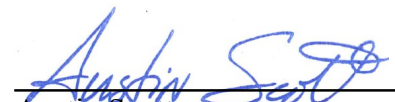
Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



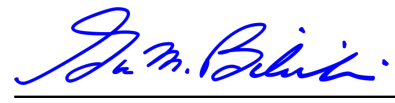
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



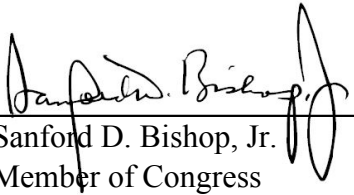
Austin Scott
Member of Congress





Pete Stauber
Member of Congress




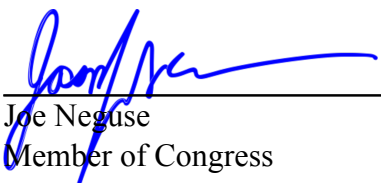
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

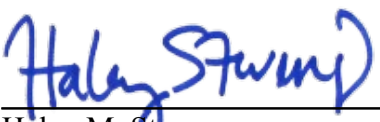

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

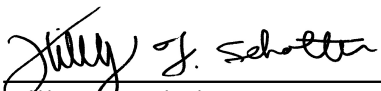

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
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Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

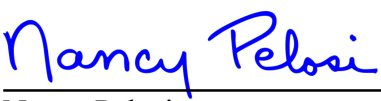

Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

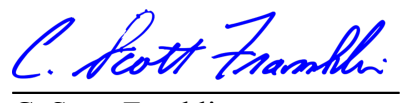

David J. Taylor
Member of Congress

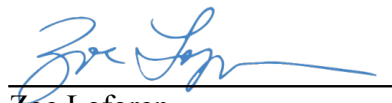

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress


Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress


Jason Crow
Member of Congress

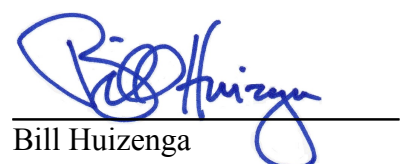

Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

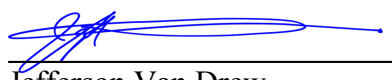

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

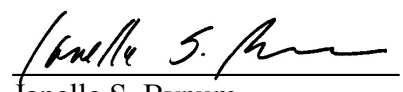

Josh Riley
Member of Congress

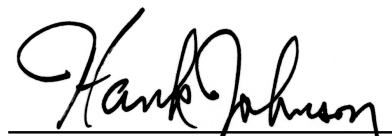

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

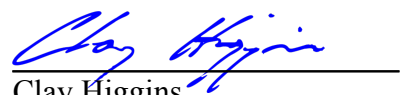

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

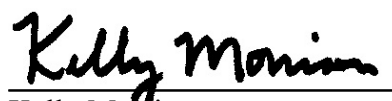

Ed Case
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

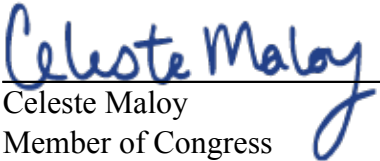

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

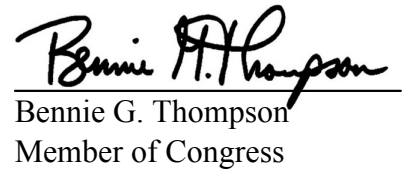

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

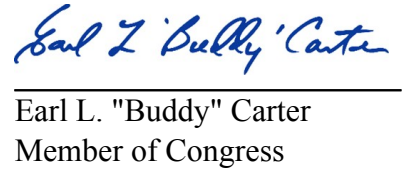

Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress

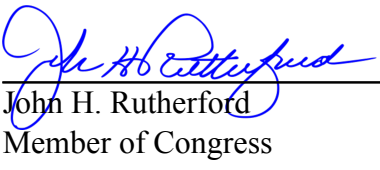

Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress

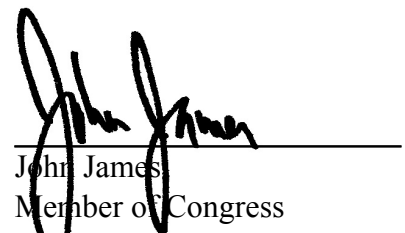

Celeste Maloy
Member of Congress

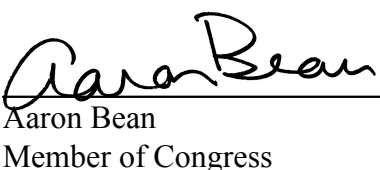

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

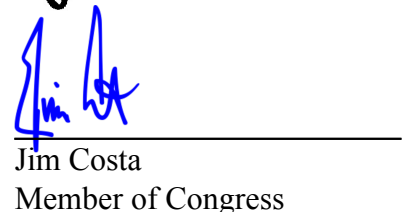

Tom Barrett
Member of Congress

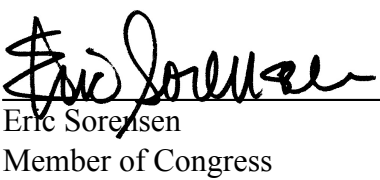

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

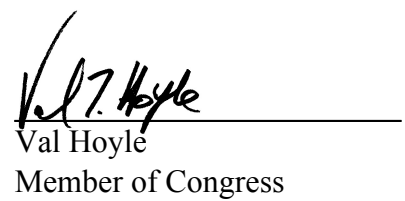

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

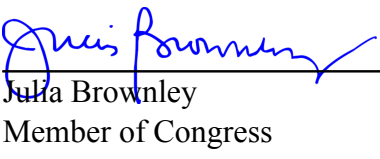

John James
Member of Congress

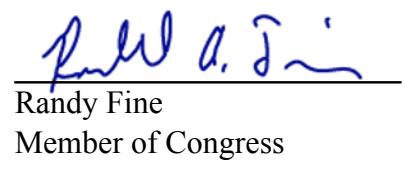

Aaron Bean
Member of Congress

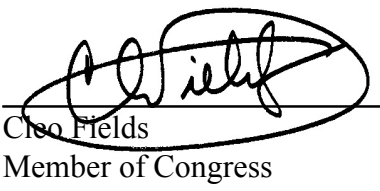

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

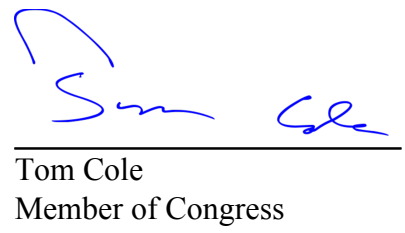

Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress


Val Hoyle
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

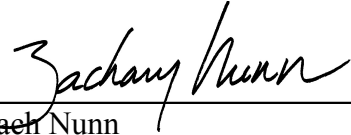

Randy Fine
Member of Congress


Cleo Fields
Member of Congress


Tom Cole
Member of Congress



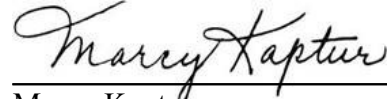
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



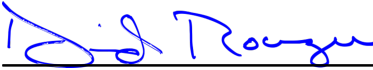
Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



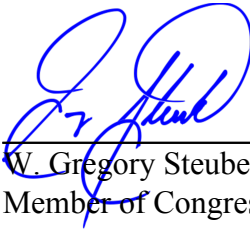
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress

CC:

Hon. Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
Kevin Hassett, Director, National Economic Council