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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

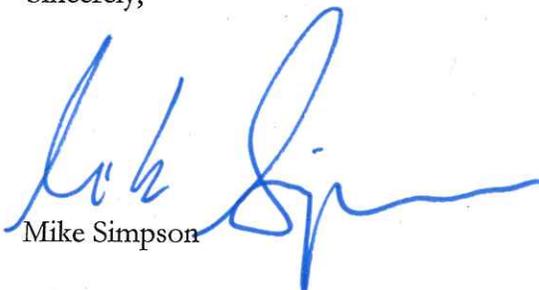
Dear Secretary Perdue,

I write today regarding the anticipated trade mitigation assistance package which will help farmers with the damages they have incurred due to retaliatory tariffs. While I know farmers would prefer to compete in a global marketplace, the market uncertainty is having severe impacts on two of Idaho's most important commodities, wheat and barley.

According to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report published last week, the average farm price of barley has dropped from \$4.60 to \$4.20, or about 9.5% in the past year. In the same time period, wheat dropped from \$5.20 to \$4.70, about 14.9%. This is creating significant stress on our farmers.

While wheat was included on China's list of retaliatory tariffs and barley was not, the price of barley is tied to wheat and that has caused the price drop stated above. That is why I am respectfully requesting that this second trade mitigation package address both wheat and barley losses to provide relief to Idaho farmers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mike Simpson