

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 25, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

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

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Kirk:

Five months ago, the People's Republic of China pledged to reopen its markets to American pork exports. We are writing today to inquire about the status of China's pledge and to support the Administration in ensuring this commitment to reopen China's market is honored.

Beginning on April 26, 2009, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China banned the direct or indirect imports of swine and swine products from states with confirmed cases of "human swine influenza." This ban included many major pork exporting states. At the conclusion of the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), we were very pleased to hear from you and from U.S. Trade Representative Kirk that China would re-open its market to the United States and follow consistent, scientifically based standards for accepting imported meat.

The U.S. Pork industry supports 35,000 full-time equivalent jobs, 515,000 indirect jobs and generates \$34.5 billion of gross national product to the U.S. economy. During these challenging economic times, these jobs are vital. However, following last year's H1N1 outbreak, the vitality of the pork industry was hurt by unfounded export disruptions in places like China. Dealing with complex and intertwined trade issues is a difficult task. However, we believe it is important that China honor the agreement to open its export market to U.S. pork and we urge you to do everything within your means to ensure this market is reopened as promised.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and we look forward to working with you to restore and grow our agricultural export capacity.

Sincerely,


Amy Klobuchar


John Thune

Gene McCasill

Albie Stenow

Jim Rukhi

Rolad W. Bunn

Al Frankum

Tom Ak

Mike Johnson

Shed Brown

Blanch L. Lintch

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Jim Johnson

Sam Froumbock

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Kay R. Hagan

Max Bances

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Erin Boyle
