
February 14, 2018

Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

Robust international trade is essential to the economies of western states. Federal policies and relationships with international trade partners have created new markets for goods and services that are grown, produced or manufactured in western states and encouraged investments in our communities and businesses. Western Governors encourage federal policies that continue providing the stability and certainty upon which these successful trade relationships depend.

Canada and Mexico are top trade partners for most western states. Nationwide, agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico totaled \$43 billion in 2016. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, Canada and Mexico purchase one-third of all U.S. manufactured goods exports.

Agreements between the United States and its trade partners provide a solid foundation for our citizens to engage in productive international trade activity, enhance our economic competitiveness, and contribute to the functioning of our local governments, states, and the nation. These agreements can and should be modernized to recognize advances in science and technology, resolve outstanding issues, protect U.S. workers and the environment, and ensure that the rules established by these agreements are enforced by all parties. Western Governors urge that any changes be undertaken without negatively affecting our citizens' ability to compete in the international marketplace or harming our overall economic competitiveness.

Western Governors support the economic opportunities for American goods and businesses facilitated by international trade agreements and encourage you to maintain the stability of the United States' trade policies.

Sincerely,



Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota
Chair, WGA



David Ige
Governor of Hawaii
Vice Chair, WGA

cc: Honorable Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative
Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture