

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2017

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

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
Ambassador
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ambassador Lighthizer:

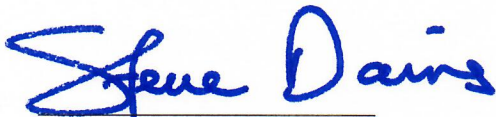
We write to request your assistance in addressing a serious market disruption that is affecting U.S. dry pea producers and processors in the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains. On November 8, 2017, the Government of India announced that all imports of dry peas will be subject to a 50 percent tariff, effective immediately, including shipments under contract and in transit. India is the top export market for U.S. dry peas, purchasing an average of 200,000 tons, or 30 percent of U.S. exports, per year. Unless this decision is reversed or mitigated, it will have a devastating impact on the U.S. dry pea industry.

The imposition of such an increase without notice has caused cash dry pea prices to collapse in the United States. Furthermore, exporters with shipments currently en route will suffer severe financial hardship when the tariff is applied to their product upon arrival. To mitigate these initial impacts, we urge that you request the Government of India to immediately reverse its decision, or at least delay imposing it for 90 days to allow shipments under existing contracts to be delivered.

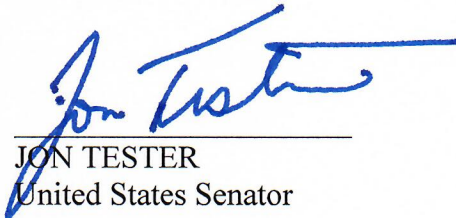
In the event India continues to impose this highly-disruptive trade measure, we ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use discretionary authorities, as appropriate, to purchase dry peas that otherwise would have been exported to India during the current marketing year. These authorities include 7 U.S.C. 612c (Section 32) to purchase surplus commodities that would otherwise depress domestic prices, and sales or donations under domestic or international food assistance programs.

We look forward to working with you to mitigate the impact of this unanticipated and devastating action by the Government of India on U.S. dry pea producers and processors.

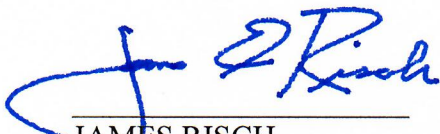
Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



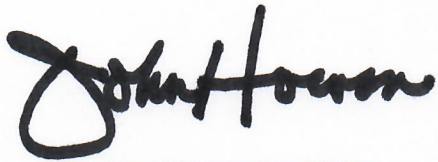
JON TESTER
United States Senator



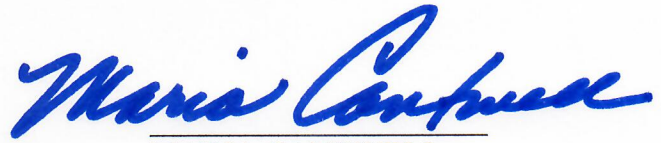
JAMES RISCH
United States Senator



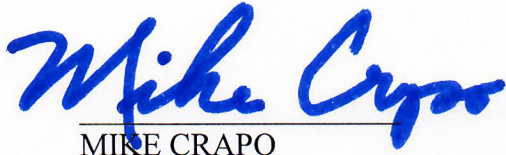
HEIDI HEITKAMP
United States Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator



MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator