

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear President Biden and Ambassador Tai,

We write today to strongly urge continued work to remove trade barriers and open new export markets for our farmers and biofuel producers.

The United States continues to be the global leader in the production of biofuels - specifically ethanol, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) - accounting for more than half of global production. This is a testament to the farmers and businesses that serve our communities every day.

These homegrown fuels have massive potential not only for the United States economy but also for countries throughout the world seeking clean fuels to lower emissions and energy prices. The United States exports approximately 1.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually, utilizing 500 million bushels of corn that is predominantly supplied by American farmers. The production and exportation of these biofuels provide an enormous boost to the rural communities that we represent. We urge you to actively support expanding market access for U.S. biofuels.

With the global SAF market anticipated to grow from under \$2 billion this year to more than \$133 billion in 2033, and with American-based biofuel feedstocks well poised to meet the scale of that growth, it is critically important that USTR remains committed to supporting American biofuel producers during global trade discussions. The United States should negotiate market-opening free trade agreements (FTA), and the Biden administration should use these negotiations to level the playing field for American workers, farmers, and businesses. In the absence of enforceable FTAs, we urge you to pursue an aggressive strategy to increase opportunities for market access through the reduction of trade barriers. Specifically, some trading partners have implemented policies to restrict American biofuel imports, and we urge your continued attention to these matters.

- On May 31, 2023, we wrote to Ambassador Tai on Brazil's unfair treatment of U.S. exports and the unlevel playing field for the American ethanol industry. We appreciate your July 6 response and further briefings on this subject and recognize the steps you have taken to address this issue.

- India has set a national ethanol blending goal of 20 percent by 2025, yet it maintains a ban on the import of fuel-grade ethanol. American farmers must not be excluded from large and emerging markets whose economies represent a growing proportion of the global economy.
- One of our closest trading partners, the United Kingdom, has similarly applied a cap on crop-based biofuels that begins in 2027 and becomes increasingly restrictive over the next 5 years.
- While countries directly restrict biofuel imports, others such as Mexico similarly threaten America's farmers by restricting imports of genetically modified corn, the feedstock for ethanol production. The use of modern biotechnology drives down the cost of both corn and the biofuels it produces, and new trade restrictions could increase both food and energy costs.

As these trade restrictive policies continue and new market access barriers emerge, USTR must defend American farmers and our nation's position as a leading producer of biofuels. Therefore, we strongly urge your Administration to redouble its efforts toward establishing new market opportunities and removing existing trade barriers for our farmers and biofuels producers. Expanding our biofuels exports would boost our economy, support our agricultural community, and further demonstrate American energy leadership around the globe.

Sincerely,



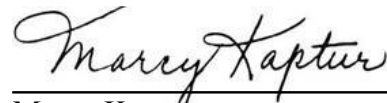
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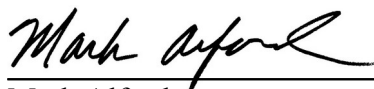
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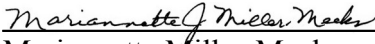
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