



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

July 08, 2020

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington DC 20508

Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are writing today regarding the commitment made in your January 9, 2020 letter to Florida congressional offices regarding unfair Mexican trade practices harming seasonal and perishable produce growers in Florida and the Southeast. You pledged to issue a plan to redress these practices shortly after USMCA's entry-into-force. We consider that commitment to be an important element of USMCA implementation. We therefore appreciated your statements during the recent trade hearings before the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committees that you remain committed to holding hearings at the right time and to issuing a trade-action plan within 60 days of USMCA's implementation to effectively resolve this serious trade problem.

The Florida industry's level of concern and frustration over Mexico's unfair fruit and vegetable practices is at an all-time high. From January through April of this year, even when so many of our Florida growers were forced to plow their crops under, the Mexican produce industry continued to increase its US market share by 17% versus the same period of 2019, often at record low prices. With Mexico's non-market practices in this industry only growing worse, our Florida growers are counting on your plan to give them relief and hope for the future.

We therefore ask for your assurance that you will coordinate closely with our offices and the Florida industry to launch an effective, timely trade action in 2020. A timely trade remedy is needed to help save our produce sectors in Florida and the larger Southeast, and to ensure a US-grown supply of fruits and vegetables to feed our nation during the fall-spring months of the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Gregory Steube". The signature is stylized and cursive.

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



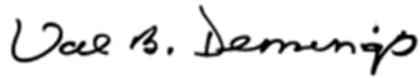
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz- Balart
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



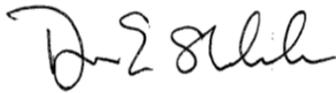
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Ross Spano
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress