

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to you to draw attention to the detrimental effects that retaliatory tariffs have on tree nut growers and request support for California's walnut growers. Our state leads the nation in production of tree nuts and accounts for roughly all national production of walnuts, much of which are exported to countries such as China, India, and Turkey. We appreciate the Administration's support for California's almond growers through the Market Facilitation Program's (MFP) first round. However, to date, no relief has been provided to walnut growers.

Our state consistently remains a leader in agricultural production and exportation for the entire United States, due in no small part to highly effective taxpayer-funded USDA programs such as the Market Access Program (MAP), Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP), and Foreign Market Development Program (FMD). Without these USDA programs, foreign export markets may have remained untapped by American tree nut growers. Unfortunately, retaliatory tariffs threaten to limit much of the progress made by these programs over decades. Once these export markets are lost, they may be lost forever to foreign competitors and high costs of market re-entry.

Prior to the retaliatory tariffs, walnut growers received \$2,530 per ton (\$1.246 per pound) in 2017 as reported by California Department of Food and Agriculture in coordination with USDA. Since the tariffs took effect, American growers are receiving an estimated \$1,600 per ton (\$0.80 per pound), according to the California's Walnut Bargaining Association. Walnut prices are expected to continue decreasing, putting American growers at serious risk of not covering their production costs.

Again, we urge USDA to include walnuts in the second-round Market Facilitation Program (MFP), to help stabilize prices for growers in California and nationwide and await future export opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



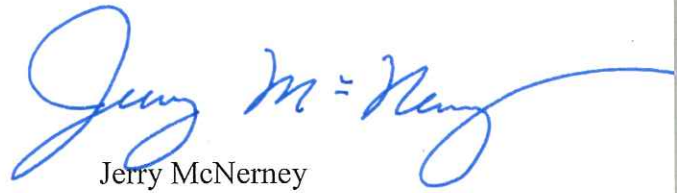
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
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Jim Costa
Member of Congress