

January 8, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Re: USITC Investigation No. 201-TA-077, Fresh, Chilled, or Frozen Blueberries

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

The California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) is a voluntary, nonprofit agricultural trade association that represents California's permanent, fresh fruit producers on legislative and regulatory issues. CFFA's membership is comprised of more than 300 growers, shippers, and marketers of California stone fruit, table grapes, and other tree fruit (except citrus and avocado).

Open, unfettered market access, free from complicated and cumbersome barriers to trade, creates stability and opportunity which are essential for the success of America's farmers and ranchers. With regards to the United States International Trade Commission's Section 201 Investigation into the importation of blueberries, we urge the U.S. government to be mindful of the framework of our existing trade agreements and of any potential action taken that may be consequential to the overarching relationships with our trading partners.

It is essential that the U.S. adhere to our commitments within trade agreements to maintain this critical stability. Otherwise, we risk setting off trade disputes with trading partners around the world. The global pandemic has distorted global markets for nearly a year, and our trade dispute with China has not yet been fully resolved.

America's farmers and ranchers' continued success is dependent on sustained and stable market access. The U.S.'s ability to continue negotiating favorable trade agreements depends upon our adherence to commitments in existing trade agreements, as well as a reputation for perceived protectionism.

The U.S. policy of trade liberalization over the last several decades has contributed tremendously to the success of the nation's agriculture industry. It should be the goal of United States Trade Representative to continue lowering trade barriers in foreign markets and avoid implementing policies that could potentially create trade disputes wherever possible.

Sincerely,



Ian LeMay  
President  
California Fresh Fruit Association