

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 2, 2019

The Honorable David S. Johanson  
Chairman  
United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20436

Re: Dried Tart Cherries from Turkey Inv. Nos. 701-TA-622 and 731-TA-1448 (Final)

Dear Chairman Johanson:

We understand the Commission will convene the final injury hearing on Dried Tart Cherries from Turkey on December 3, 2019. As U.S. Representatives of Michigan's Congressional Delegation, we are submitting this letter for the record in this matter on behalf of members of the Dried Tart Cherry Committee and its coalition members who produce dried tart cherries in Michigan.

Michigan has a proud and extensive history of being a leader in the agriculture industry. Fruit crops are an especially important part of the state's economy, and Michigan cherries are known throughout the state and nation – in fact Traverse City, Michigan is known as the Cherry Capital of the world. In addition, the five counties located in and around Traverse City are the leading producers of the annual tart cherry crop in the United States. Orchards line the state's western region along the coast of Lake Michigan from Benton Harbor to the Grand Traverse area. The first cherry tree was planted in the Grand Traverse area in the 1850's, and today family owned orchards and cooperatives representing multiple generations of Michiganders continue their commitment to the industry.

Representing Michigan in Congress, we have worked with the cherry industry to support the continued efforts of our growers and their employees. We learned earlier this year that the Dried Tart Cherry Committee filed trade petitions challenging the unfair trade practices on imports from Turkey. In fact, we understand that imports dramatically increased from over 413,000 pounds in 2016 to 1.5 million pounds by the end of 2018. The Commerce Department issued an affirmative preliminary countervailing duty (CVD) determination of 204% on September 23, 2019. On that same day, Commerce also issued an affirmative preliminary antidumping duty (AD) determination of a range of 541 – 643%. Final duties are expected to be announced on December 11, 2019.

These trends are certainly disturbing for Michigan growers and processors who, as they will state in their testimony, adhere to global trading rules while they aspire to expand the market for Michigan cherries. As Members of Congress, we are equally concerned about the future of the industry, which is doing everything in its power to help its members overcome an adverse trade landscape, because we know the importance of its economic contribution to our state and nation.

We hope the Commission will take into consideration the information on the record and the witness testimony that will be provided at the Dec. 3, 2019 final injury hearing at the Commission. The future of this multigenerational industry and its legacy are important to all Michiganders.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to share these views.

Sincerely,




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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



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Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress



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Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress