



Maryland Farm Bureau

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May 22, 2019

President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of 26,000 Maryland Farm Bureau members, I am writing to urge a speedy resolution to trade talks in order to provide market certainty to the families who grow our food, fiber and fuel.

Maryland farmers are currently suffering from low prices and extreme market volatility for virtually all agricultural commodities and products. Maryland's dairy farmers are going out of business at a rate of 30 farms per year. We are down to 356 dairy operations, with many families discussing whether they can make it another year.

Chinese tariffs on beef and pork have flooded the U.S. market with protein, lowering the demand for Maryland poultry and leading to lower income to farmers across the entire Eastern Shore.

Maryland grain producers grow 1 million acres of corn and soybeans. Most were not impacted at the onset of the trade dispute. In fact, many agreed the long-term benefits of better trade agreements with China and other countries was desirable. But now, as new contracts are being sought and stockpiled product is being marketed, our growers are hurting. Another assistance package that helps America's producers during these very tough times is now necessary and we appreciate your work to secure funding.

Maryland farmers are counting on you to put the trade fires out and work to prevent new ones from starting. Retaliatory tariffs and missed market opportunities are costing U.S. agricultural export markets, both in the short-term and, we fear, in years to come.

Here in Maryland, we have a world-class port in Baltimore, a tremendous high-tech corridor and agriculture is still our top industry. Ending the trade war and implementing new agreements has the potential to increase cash receipts in Maryland by \$43 million and our net exports by \$19 million. Increased marketing opportunities for farmers will add at least 150 new jobs to the economy. Eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers to Maryland farm exports will increase trade for poultry, corn, soybeans, vegetables, processed foods and dairy. Please act swiftly to improve our trade situation.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Fry
President