

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2202  
June 27, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

Thank you for your efforts to strengthen trading relationships with Canada and Mexico through the negotiation of the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA). We write today to request that additional measures are taken to support the American asparagus industry.

As you know, USMCA would have a strong positive impact on the U.S. agricultural sector, delivering an estimated \$2.2 billion in additional U.S. economic activity. However, American asparagus growers and processors around the nation are facing uncertainty, as they are forced to compete on an unlevel playing field.

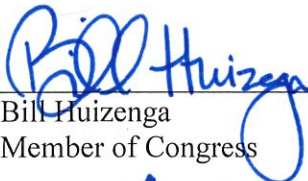
The United States has a long history of producing high quality, fresh and processed asparagus. Unfortunately, due to increased imports, rising labor costs, and increasing overall production costs, many growers may be forced out of business.

According to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics, the share of U.S. asparagus consumption provided through imports has grown from 10.8% in 1980 to 91.2% in 2015. Imports of asparagus rose by 46% from 2008 to 2018 and it is estimated that asparagus from Mexico accounts for 55% of all asparagus found in U.S. stores. Today, American farms are estimated to only produce 10% of the current supply of asparagus.

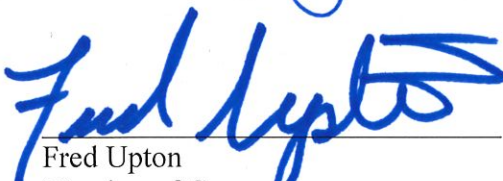
We recognize that USMCA is critically important to American workers, farmers, and businesses. However, we must ensure that steps are also taken to strengthen the American asparagus industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress

  
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



---

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



---

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



---

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress