

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your continued efforts to secure a favorable economic environment for North Dakota and Montana agricultural producers. As you prepare for your upcoming trip to India, we write to encourage you to push for favorable pulse crop provisions in any deal the United States may sign with the Republic of India.

Montana and North Dakota are the number one and two producers of pulse crops in the United States and India is the world's largest consumer of pulse crops, contributing to approximately 27 percent of the world's consumption. The most commonly consumed pulse crops in India are lentils, chickpeas, dried beans, and peas, yet the Republic of India has levied substantial tariffs on American pulse crops.

Unfair Indian tariffs on pulse crops have substantially harmed our producers back home. Following the removal of India from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) on June 5, 2019, additional tariffs were placed on American pulse crops. Currently, tariff rates are 30 percent for dried beans, 50 percent for lentils and peas, and 70 percent for chickpeas. As a result, U.S. pulse crop producers face a significant competitive disadvantage when exporting to India.

At a time when many producers have been struggling to make ends meet, your work to expand market opportunities for U.S. farm commodities has been critical. Engaging Prime Minister Modi on pulse crop tariffs as part of larger discussions to enhance the economic cooperation between our countries would be mutually beneficial to both American producers and Indian consumers.

We applaud your recent success in securing a Phase One Trade Agreement with China, the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, and we are grateful for the fulfillment of your promise to negotiate a new North American trade deal with the ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. These successes will produce real results for Montanans and North Dakotans alike. We hope you can build on this progress in your negotiations with India.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator