

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Vilsack & Secretary Pritzker:

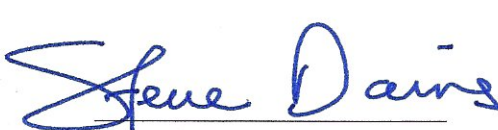
We write to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) work to address India's regulatory changes that are having a significant impact on the ability of Montana's pulse producers to export to that country. These issues, if not promptly resolved, will cause significant harm to pulse producers across the country and put pending pulse import contracts at risk.

As you know, on October 18, 2015, India's central government removed "stock limit" exemptions for pulse products held by Indian importers. This will effectively close India's pulse import trade entirely as the central government's recommended "stock limit" is only 350 metric tons, while Indian importers receive shipments of thousands of metric tons at one time in the normal course of business. This directly threatens U.S. pulse exports to India that total over 100,000 metric tons annually. Additionally, over 200,000 metric tons of pulses are currently being held at Indian ports and their status is currently uncertain.


Montana produces more pulse crops than any other state in the nation. This industry is a rapidly growing and integral aspect of our economy as producers in the state planted over 680,000 acres worth of pulses worth over \$100 million in 2014. We request that USDA and Commerce engage with the Indian government to resolve this situation as quickly as possible and provide pulse producers in Montana and across the country the certainty they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



JON TESTER
United States Senator



RYAN ZINKE
United States Congressman