

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

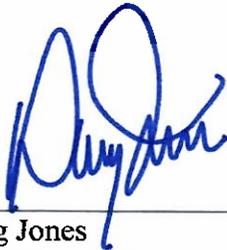
We are writing on behalf of our farmers, producers, and communities that have been harmed by the retaliatory tariffs imposed by China. Our farmers rely in large part on China for their commodities, and they have worked hard over decades to build these markets which are now unfairly being targeted by the Chinese government.

Farmers have been waiting for the second round of Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments to be announced. It was recently reported that U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Steve Censky is working to assure your administration, including the Office of Management and Budget, that these payments are still needed for our agriculture producers. We applaud USDA's work to ensure this commitment to farmers and producers is met.

As you well know, the passage of a new Farm Bill gives assurance to farmers that safety-net policies, which are critical to continuing farm operations, will be implemented. The delivery of a second round of promised trade mitigation payments is also paramount to alleviate damages caused by China's unfair trading practices and retaliatory tariffs.

We believe that these payments are necessary in the hopes that the majority of farmers are able to break even this year. While the latest round of soybean purchases by China has received a positive response and is appreciated, the status of the current or future sales remains to be seen. We ask that you proceed with the second round of MFP payments and make the announcement before the end of the year. The recent passage of a long-term farm bill, coupled with the expected second half of agriculture mitigation payments, will go a long way toward ensuring our farmers and ranchers can continue to produce the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world.

Sincerely,



Doug Jones
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator