

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary of Commerce
US Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We are writing to express our strong support for the United States ripe olive industry's import relief petition against unfairly traded ripe olives from Spain. Absent import relief, the survival of this US industry is at risk.

The ripe olive industry was created in California over a century ago. At its peak, it had over 20 processors and 1,100 American olive growers farming more than 37,000 acres. Today, as low-priced, subsidized Spanish ripe olives continue to saturate the US market, the California industry has declined to two processors, 890 growers, and fewer than 19,300 acres. Growers are being forced to sell off acreage or switch to other crops.

The Spanish ripe olive industry is being supported by extraordinary European Union and Spanish subsidies, which are allowing the Spanish industry to grow and expand its U.S. sales in ways that otherwise would not be economically possible. With the support of these large subsidies, and unfair Spanish pricing, Spain's ripe olive industry has already claimed most of the U.S. institutional market and is now systematically seizing much of the U.S. retail market as well. As the dire consequences of Spain's unfair practices continue to mount, we are deeply concerned about the sustainability of US ripe olive growers and processors, and the thousands of related American jobs this industry supports.

To reinstate fairness in the US marketplace and help safeguard a sector of American agriculture this country invented and built, we strongly urge the Administration to grant effective and timely import relief against imports of Spanish ripe olives.

Sincerely,


Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

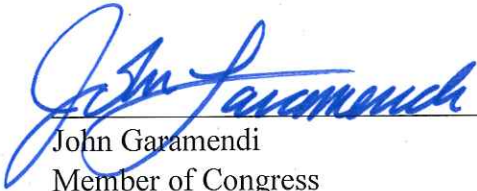

Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



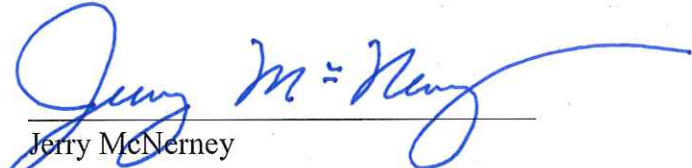
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Steve Knight
Member of Congress