



## TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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May 21, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

Tennessee farmers thank you for the support, respect, and admiration you have bestowed upon the farm community over the past two years. ***Your efforts to improve trading opportunities for all U.S. industries, including agriculture, have been valiant.*** Your unprecedented attention to and high regard for the American farmer is gratefully and deeply appreciated.

We are thankful your mission to improve our nation's economic health includes attaining fair trade agreements. We are ***hopeful the U.S. – China negotiations will come to a successful conclusion soon.*** As President of the United States, it is crucial you have a gauge of what is happening on our farms and as President of the Tennessee Farm Bureau I believe it is my responsibility to share with you what I am hearing and observing in farm country.

***Farmers are becoming increasingly weary under the economic drag and market volatility.*** Commodity prices are low and deteriorating while input costs continue to rise. Farmers are facing ten to forty percent increases in inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, crop protection agents and equipment, etc. On the income side, commodity prices on corn, soybeans and wheat are fifteen to twenty-five percent less than last year. Nearly all agricultural commodities are impacted. This financial squeeze also presents a challenge in obtaining production loans. In addition, weather conditions have resulted in significant delays in spring planting and the persistent wet conditions are threatening farmer's ability to get crops planted in time to remain eligible for crop insurance.

***Farmers are aware of and appreciate your Administration's work to provide another assistance package to help farmers during these very tough times.*** The Trade Aid Package, Market Facilitation Program, you authorized in 2018 helped farmers hold on while trade negotiations with China continue. These programs are helpful short term but are not the answer and will not replace lost markets.

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Mr. President, given the significance of trade to farmers, the agriculture industry and our nation's economy, ***we implore you and your Administration to resolve these trade wars quickly and stay watchful in preventing new trade barriers from starting.*** We have faith and hope you will achieve improvements in these critical trade agreements to strengthen our nation and economy.

Thank you for all you are doing to move our country forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Aiken". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Aiken, President  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation

cc: The Honorable Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative