

DOCKET NUMBER
3479
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
INT'L TRADE COMMISSION



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 29, 2020

RECEIVED

The Honorable Jason Kearns
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20436

July 29, 2020
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
U.S. INT'L TRADE
COMMISSION

Dear Chairman:

On June 24, 2020, the President issued a Memorandum on Protecting the United States Lobster Industry ("Memorandum"). The Memorandum states, in part, that U.S. exports of lobster to the European Union ("EU") appear to have been significantly and negatively affected by the recent implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ("CETA") between Canada and the European Union. The Memorandum further directs the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") to request that the United States International Trade Commission ("ITC") provide a report that details any negative effects of the CETA on the United States lobster industry. The Memorandum requires USTR to submit the report to the President, and, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Commerce, recommend appropriate actions that may be taken to minimize or eliminate any negative effects identified in the ITC's report.

Accordingly, under authority delegated by the President and pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), I request that the ITC conduct an investigation and prepare a report that details any negative effects of the CETA on the United States lobster industry.

The report should contain:

- An overview of the U.S. and Canadian lobster industries, including information on production/catch levels, employment, processing capacity, supply chains, prices, and domestic consumption, to the extent data is available. The overview should also include key factors that affect industry competitiveness for both industries.
- A description of trends in lobster exports from the United States and Canada to the EU and the United Kingdom ("UK"), as well as other major destination markets, including China, over the last five years, covering the period before and after implementation of the CETA. If

relevant for context, this description may include discussion of major developments in the broader global lobster market.

- Information on the tariff treatment of U.S. and Canadian exports of lobster to the EU, the UK, and other major destination markets, including China, since the implementation of the CETA.
- A quantitative assessment, to the extent possible, of the economic effects of the CETA on the volume of U.S. exports of lobster to the EU and the UK.

I request that the ITC transmit its report no later than six months following receipt of this request. I intend to make the ITC's report available to the public in its entirety; therefore, the report should not include any confidential business information.

I appreciate the ITC's assistance and cooperation in this matter, as well as in the Administration's trade negotiations and other initiatives.

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Lighthizer