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U.S. House of Representatives

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JANICE MAYS,
MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Williamson:

The Committee on Ways and Means is interested in obtaining current information on relevant factors affecting the global competitiveness of the U.S. rice industry. Although the United States produces less than 2 percent of the world's rice, it is a major exporter, accounting for more than 10 percent of the annual volume of global rice trade.

In order to better assess the current market conditions confronting the U.S. industry, we request that the U.S. International Trade Commission conduct an investigation under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), and provide a report setting forth the results of the investigation.

To the extent that information is publicly available, the report should contain:

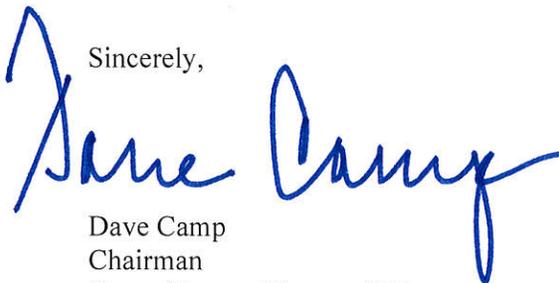
- an overview of the rice industry in the United States and other major global producing and exporting countries (such as China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Uruguay, and Brazil), including production of rice, processing volumes, processing capacity, carry-over inventory, and consumption;
- information on recent trade trends and developments in the global market for rice, including U.S. and major foreign supplier imports and exports;
- a comparison of the competitive strengths and weaknesses of rice production and exports in the United States and other major exporting countries, including such factors as producer revenue and costs of production, industry structure, input prices and availability, processing technology, product innovation, exchange rates, pricing, and marketing regimes, as well as government policies and programs that directly or indirectly affect rice production and exporting in these countries;
- a qualitative and, to the extent possible, quantitative assessment of the impact of government policies and programs of major producing and exporting countries on their rice production, exports, consumption, and domestic prices, as well as on rice prices globally; and

- an overview of the impact on the U.S. rice industry of exports from the highlighted countries of rice to the United States and to traditional export markets of the United States such as, but not limited to, Mexico, Haiti and West Africa.

The report should focus primarily on the 2009-2013 time period. The Committee requests that the Commission transmit its report to Congress no later than 11 months following the receipt of this request. It is the Committee's intent to make the Commission's report available to the public in its entirety. Therefore, the report should not include any confidential business information.

Thank you for attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

Cc: Rep. Sandy Levin, Ranking Member