



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 9, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Johanson:

The Administration is interested in obtaining information on the conditions of competition between the United States and foreign suppliers of raspberries meant for processing. The Washington State Red Raspberry Commission and its producer members have raised concerns about imports of fresh raspberries for processing (not fresh consumption) and processed raspberries (including frozen), citing unfair practices. They have also raised concerns with increased pesticide residue violations of imported product, and with misleading labeling of frozen mixed berry packs imported from Canada, which do not accurately identify the source of raspberries in the pack.

Therefore, under authority delegated by the President to the United States Trade Representative, and pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), I request that the Commission conduct an investigation and prepare a report that provides an overview of the U.S. raspberry industry in Washington state and assesses the conditions of competition between U.S. and foreign suppliers of raspberries meant for processing.

The report should contain:

- An overview of the U.S. raspberry industry in Washington State – including fresh raspberries for processing, frozen raspberries, and raspberry juice – as well as an overview of the industries producing fresh and processed raspberries in major producing and exporting countries. The overviews should include information on production and processing volumes and trends, planted acreage, processing capacity, supply chains, domestic consumption, and imports and exports of fresh and processed raspberries.
- Production, pricing, and consumption trends for fresh and processed raspberries in the United States and other major producing and exporting countries over the last five years. Pricing analysis should include the relationship between prices of domestic products and imports of fresh and processed raspberries in the U.S. market to the extent such data is available.

- An overview of U.S. imports of fresh and processed raspberries including information on the main country sources of supply, trade patterns, and supply chains of major suppliers to the United States, as well as an overview of country of origin labeling practices in major U.S. supplier countries.
- A description of foreign government policies, financial aid, and programs that directly or indirectly affect production, infrastructure, exports, and imports of fresh and processed raspberries, including product labeling and food safety regulations, producer support, and tariff and nontariff measures.
- A comparison of the competitive strengths and weaknesses of production and exports of fresh and processed raspberries in the United States and other major producing and exporting countries, including such factors as costs of production, industry structure, technology, product innovation, exchange rates, supply chains and distribution, pricing, marketing regimes, and government policies.
- A qualitative and, to the extent possible, quantitative assessment of the economic impact of imports from major producing and exporting countries on production and prices of U.S. fresh and processed raspberries.

The report should primarily focus on the 2015 to 2019 time period. I request that the Commission transmit its report no later than 14 months following receipt of this request. It is my intent to make the Commission's report available to the public in its entirety; therefore, the report should not include any confidential business information.

I appreciate the Commission's assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Lighthizer