

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

November 29, 2012

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- ☐ 131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 180
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

Under Secretary Michael Scuse
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Scuse:

As you know, U.S. pork, beef, and poultry producers continue to face arbitrary and unscientific barriers in Russia. As Congress moves closer to lifting the Jackson-Vanik restrictions on Russia, thus allowing Russia to be granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), it is incumbent upon the U.S. Trade Representative and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to keep the pressure on Russia to fully implement the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement and remove all barriers to U.S. agricultural products not supported by sound science. I have made repeated requests to the Obama administration and our trade negotiators to keep up the efforts to lower these barriers. While the Obama administration missed a key opportunity by not obtaining a bilateral SPS agreement with the Russians prior to WTO accession, there is no reason we should not keep pushing the Russians to follow sound science related to agricultural imports. Presumably Russia's desire to join the WTO is driven by the recognition that free and fair trade will help their economy and people. If that is the case, then they should recognize they can no longer hide behind politically motivated protectionist measures.

The Russian market holds tremendous potential for U.S. farmers; last year U.S. meat and poultry exports ranked second only to aircraft engines in total export value to Russia. The unscientific SPS barriers certainly hindered U.S. producers from making even greater in-roads into the Russian market. Given FAS's work on these SPS issues I am sure you are aware of the specific SPS issues facing our producers in Russia. As you travel to Russia next week, I request that you continue to demand of Russian government officials that they abide by science-based SPS standards for U.S. agricultural products. U.S. farmers deserve to be treated fairly by our international trading partners. You have an opportunity next week to continue advancing that case for our farmers.

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

Upon return from your trip, I would appreciate it if your staff would follow up with my staff to share how any discussions on SPS matters went during your meetings in Russia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and last name "Grassley" clearly legible.

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate