

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2017

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As you know, the Brazilian government recently announced it will impose a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) on ethanol imports. The reinstatement of this 20% tariff, which is imposed on imports in excess of 600 million liters (158 million gallons) during a one year period, raises great concern. We are writing to ask that you directly engage the Brazilian government and quickly work to resolve this issue.

For several years, the U.S. and Brazil have engaged in ethanol trade which signaled the maturing and global nature of the biofuels industry. However, this new action by Brazil's Chamber of Foreign Trade indicates a potential turning point in how ethanol moves between our respective countries.

The U.S. renewable fuels industry has invested heavily in ethanol plants, feedstock development and infrastructure over the last several decades to advance the industry. Similar investments have been made in many other countries including Brazil. Unfortunately, seemingly arbitrary or protectionist tariffs are threatening to disrupt the growing global market that has developed for ethanol. We look forward to working with you to address the concerns regarding Brazil's actions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Ben Sasse
United States Senator



Richard Durbin
United States Senator