GFOPS REPORT ON TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

December 2015

Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

In accordance with section 5(b) (4) of the Bipartisan Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, and section 135(e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. I am pleased to transmit the report of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, reflecting consensus on the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely,

Donald E Latham

Donald E. Latham
Chair
Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds ATAC

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

Report of the
Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds

December 2015

Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds

Advisory Committee Report to the President, the Congress and the United States Trade Representative on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Purpose of the Committee Report

In accordance with section 5(b)(4) of the Bipartisan Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, and section 135(e)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, requires that advisory committees provide the President, the U.S. Trade Representative, and Congress with reports not later than 30 days after the President notifies Congress of his intent to enter into an agreement.

Under Section 135 (e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the report of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations and each appropriate policy advisory committee must include an advisory opinion as to whether and to what extent the agreement promotes the economic interests of the United States and achieves the applicable overall and principle negotiating objectives set forth in the Trade Act of 2015.

The report of the appropriate sectoral or functional committee must also include an advisory opinion as to whether the agreement provides for equity and reciprocity within the sectoral or functional area.

Pursuant to these requirements, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds hereby submits the following report.

II. Executive Summary of Committee Report

The Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds ATAC commends the Administration for its conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. It is not a perfect agreement, as reflected in the limited and partially undocumented improved market access for rice in the Japan market which is offset by Vietnam's improved market access to the Mexico rice market. The committee continues to seek assurances from the administration on rice market access in Japan as described in the agreement and conveyed orally to the rice industry. Nonetheless, the Pacific Rim countries included in this agreement represent a large market for U.S. grains, feed, oilseeds and planting seeds, and they will be an even larger market for these products under the concluded agreement. Without this agreement, producers of U.S. agricultural commodities would face a competitive disadvantage as other trade agreements are enacted. Thus, the Committee members by consensus welcome and endorse the TPP for the benefits expected to be realized by most U.S. producers of grains, feed, oilseeds and planting seeds.

III. Brief Description of the Mandate of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds

The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds (hereinafter the "Committee") was established by the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative as delegated by Executive Order 11846, dated March 27, 1975. It was established pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 135(c) (2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

The Committee's objectives and the scope of its activities are as follows: (A) The Committee will advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade Representative on matters that are of mutual concern to the United States and to its consumers, producers, processors, and traders of grains, feed, oilseeds and planting seeds in connection with trade policy activities undertaken by the United States; and (B) The Committee will provide advice and information regarding trade issues that affect both domestic and foreign production and trade concerning grains, feed, oilseeds and planting seeds. The Committee will furnish advisory opinions and reports regarding trade policy as requested by the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade Representative, or their designees.

IV. Negotiating Objectives and Priorities of the Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds ATAC

The principal objective of the Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds ATAC is to advise the Administration on issues of importance in negotiating competitive opportunities for United States exports of agricultural commodities in foreign markets and achieving fairer and more open conditions of trade for grains, feed, oilseeds and planting seeds.

V. Advisory Committee Opinion on Agreement

FEED GRAINS

The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement will provide new market opportunities for U.S. feed grains even though U.S. exports to the TPP region already account for a large portion of total U.S. feed grain exports. In 2014, the U.S. exported $8 billion of corn and corn products to the TPP region, nearly one-half of the total $16.8 billion to the world. In 2014 the U.S. exported more than $1 billion of ethanol to the TPP region and $2 billion to the world. U.S. exports of Dried Distiller Grains (DDGS), a major co-product of ethanol production, totaled $766 million to the TPP region and $3.4 billion to the world. For barley and barley products, the U.S. exported $305 million to the TPP region in 2014 and $320 million to the world. U.S. grain sorghum exports to the TPP region totaled $98 million and $1.7 billion to the world.

Without a TPP agreement, all U.S. feed grains to the TPP region would face a competitive disadvantage. For example, exports of corn and corn products, barley and barley products and grain sorghum from Australia, New Zealand, and the ASEAN countries currently receive preferential treatment from Vietnam due to the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. Likewise, when the European Union (EU) completes its trade negotiations with Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam, EU barley, corn, and sorghum exports will also likely face lower tariffs than the U.S. currently faces. Thus, the TPP agreement is necessary for U.S. feed grains to stay competitive in the Asia-Pacific region.

Finally, the TPP agreement further expands market access for certain U.S. feed grains in countries which already have a free trade agreement with the United States.

CORN AND CORN PRODUCTS

Japan

Japan is the leading market for U.S. corn exports, with shipments valued at $2.7 billion in 2014. The United States exported nearly $180 million of corn products to Japan in 2014 as well. Under the TPP agreement, Japan's zero duty on imports of U.S. corn for feed under its existing World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff-rate quota (TRQ) will be maintained. Further, Japan will immediately eliminate an existing three-percent tariff applied to a specific in-quota tariff line for corn other than feed.

For starches, Japan will create a new, country-specific quota (CSQ) for U.S. corn and potato starch, starting at 2,500 tons and growing to 3,250 tons by year six, and a 200-ton inulin CSQ that grows to 250 tons over ten years. Additionally, Japan will expand its current WTO starch TRQ by 7,500 tons for a number of starches including corn, potato, sago, and cassava.

U.S. corn for industrial use will continue to enter Japan duty free under an autonomous 3.75 million-metric-ton quota. Within this large quota, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) allocates a semiannual import quota specifically for corn used to produce starch. This includes corn for starch, cornflakes, ethanol, distilled spirits, on-farm feed use, as well as sweeteners that can be used as substitutes for sugar. Imports outside the quota will continue to face a tariff of 50 percent or 12 yen per kilogram (approximately 87 percent ad valorem equivalent), whichever is greater.

Malaysia

Malaysia is the largest corn import market in Southeast Asia. The United States exported $42 million of corn and corn products to Malaysia in 2014. Under the TPP, all of Malaysia's tariffs on corn and corn products will be eliminated immediately.

Vietnam

Vietnam is a large importer of corn and has the potential to emerge as a significant importer of U.S. coarse grains. The United States exported $270 million of corn and corn products to Vietnam in 2014. Under the TPP, all of Vietnam's tariffs on corn and corn products, currently as high as 20 percent, will be eliminated in 4-7 years. Corn for feed currently faces a five percent tariff that will be phased out in five stages and become duty free effective January 1 of the fifth year.

Singapore

Singapore has no existing tariffs on corn or corn products and will remain at zero.

New Zealand

New Zealand will immediately eliminate all tariffs on corn and corn products.

Australia

Australia's zero tariffs on corn and corn products will remain locked in at zero.

Brunei

Brunei will immediately eliminate all tariffs on corn and corn products.

Canada

U.S. exports of corn and corn products to Canada are already duty-free under NAFTA.

Mexico
U.S. exports of corn and corn products to Mexico are already duty-free under NAFTA.
Chile
U.S exports of corn and corn products to Chile are already duty-free under existing free trade agreement.
Peru
Peru will eliminate all tariffs on corn and corn products, ranging from immediately to elimination in 16 stages becoming duty free effective January 1 of year 16 and be exempt from any duty derived from the application of the Peruvian Price Band System
United States
The United States' tariffs on corn and corn products, currently as high as 3.4 percent, will be eliminated within five years.

BARLEY AND BARLEY PRODUCTS

Japan
Japan is the world's third-largest barley importer. Japan's 2014 barley imports totaled $362 million, of which more than $46 million came from the United States. Japan currently maintains a 1.37-million-metric-ton World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for barley and processed barley grains. This includes barley for feed, which is imported duty-free within the TRQ. Under the TPP agreement, Japan will immediately eliminate its current barley for feed tariff of 39 yen per kilogram (approximately 255-percent ad valorem equivalent) on imports outside of its WTO TRQ, guaranteeing immediate duty-free access of U.S. barley for feed. Japan will create a new 25,000-metric-ton TPP-wide TRQ for barley that grows to 65,000 tons in nine years. Japan will reduce the markup on barley imports under the TRQ by 45 percent in nine years. Japan will also create two additional TPP-wide TRQs for barley flour, groats, pellet, and food preparation products, which will grow to 615 metric tons.

Japan is the world's second-largest importer of malt. Imports of U.S. malt (roasted and unroasted) were valued at $17.7 million in 2014. Japan maintains high tariffs on malt, but operates an autonomous 500,000-metric-ton, tariff-free TRQ for malt, which nearly fills every year. Under the TPP agreement, Japan will establish a new country specific quota (CSQ) for imports of U.S. unroasted malt, starting at 20, 000 tons and growing to 32,000 tons in six years. Also, a new roasted malt CSQ will be created that starts at 700 tons and grows to 1,050 tons by year 11.
Malaysia
The United States exported $1 million of barley to Malaysia in 2014. Under the TPP agreement, Malaysia's tariff on barley will be locked in at zero percent.
Vietnam
The United States did not export barley to Vietnam in 2014. Under the TPP agreement, Vietnam's tariff on barley will be locked in at zero percent and its 15-percent tariff on milled barley will be eliminated in four years.
Singapore
Singapore has no existing tariffs on barley or barley products and will remain at zero.
Australia
Australia's zero tariffs on barley and barley products will remain locked in at zero.

New Zealand
New Zealand will immediately eliminate all tariffs on barley and barley products.
Brunei
Brunei will immediately eliminate all tariffs on barley and barley products.
Canada
Canada will immediately eliminate all tariffs on barley and barley products, with the exception of barley products over access commitments which will be eliminated in 11 stages and become duty free effective January 1 of year 11.
Mexico
U.S. exports of barley and barley products are already duty-free under NAFTA.
Chile
U.S. exports of barley and barley products are already duty-free under existing free trade agreement.
Peru
Peru will eliminate all tariffs on barley and barley products, ranging from immediately to elimination in 6 stages becoming duty free effective January 1 of year 6.
United States
The United States' tariffs on barley and barley products, currently as high as 9.6 percent, will be eliminated immediately.

GRAIN SORGHUM

Japan
The United States exported $46 million of sorghum to Japan in 2014. Under the TPP agreement, Japan's tariffs on sorghum, currently as high as three percent, will be eliminated immediately.
Malaysia
The United States did not export sorghum to Malaysia in 2014. Under the TPP agreement Malaysia's tariff on sorghum is already MFN duty free.
Vietnam
The United States exported $35,750 of sorghum to Vietnam in 2014. Under the TPP agreement Vietnam's tariff on sorghum, currently as high as five percent, will be eliminated immediately.
Singapore
Singapore's tariffs on sorghum will remain at zero.
Australia
Australia tariffs on sorghum are already duty free.
New Zealand
New Zealand tariffs on sorghum are already MFN duty free.
Brunei
Brunei will eliminate all tariffs on sorghum immediately.
Canada
Canada's zero tariffs on sorghum will remain in place under TPP.
Mexico
Mexico's tariffs on sorghum are already duty free.
Chile
Chile will immediately eliminate all tariffs on sorghum.

Peru
Peru will eliminate all tariffs on sorghum, and be exempt from any duty derived from the application of the Peruvian Price Band System.
United States
The United States tariffs on sorghum of 0.22 cents/kg (0.4% ad valorem equivalent) will be eliminated upon entry into force of the agreement.

ETHANOL

The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement will provide new market opportunities for U.S. ethanol even though U.S. exports to the TPP region already account for a large portion of U.S. ethanol exports. In 2014, the U.S. exported more than $1 billion of ethanol to the TPP region and $2 billion to the world.

Japan
Japan is currently blending ethanol up to three percent. It has a biofuels blend goal of ten percent by 2030. Japan will eliminate its 27.2% tariff on over 90% denatured ethanol for other purposes than beverage and industrial usage in eight years and eliminate its 10% tariff on over 90% ethanol for other purposes than beverages and industrial usages in 11 years.
Malaysia
Current ethanol tariffs ranging from 1 to 60 Malaysian Ringgit per/liter will be eliminated in 16 annual stages and become duty-free effective January 1 of year 16.
Vietnam
Vietnam is currently blending ethanol at 5 percent. Current ethanol tariffs ranging from 10 to 40% will be eliminated in 12 annual stages and become duty-effective January 1 of year 12.
Singapore
The U.S. exported $20 million of ethanol to Singapore in 2014. Singapore tariffs on ethanol are already at zero will be locked in under TPP.
Brunei
Ethanol tariffs are at zero and will remain duty free under TPP.
New Zealand
New Zealand tariffs on ethanol are currently zero and will remain duty free.
Australia
Current ethanol tariffs of five percent in Australia will be eliminated on entry in force.
Canada
Ethanol tariffs ranging from 4.92 cents to 12.28 cents per liter will be eliminated upon entry in force.
Mexico
Ethanol tariffs of 10% plus 0.36 USD/kg on sugar content are eliminated in 15 annual stages and will become duty-free effective January 1 of year 15.
Chile
The U.S. exported $2 million of ethanol to Chile in 2014. Ethanol tariffs of six percent will be eliminated upon entry in force.

Peru
The U.S. exported $65 million of ethanol to Peru in 2014. Peru has a 7.8% blend mandate for ethanol in gasoline. Peru's ethanol tariffs of nine percent are eliminated in 16 annual stages and become duty-free effective January 1 of year 16.
United States
U.S. tariffs ranging from 1.9% to 18.9 cents/liter are eliminated either immediately or within 5 to 20 annual stages.

FEED

In 2014, U.S. feed and pet food exports to TPP countries totaled an estimated 1.24 MMT valued at roughly $1.9 billion. Because the U.S. has existing trade agreements with six of the TPP trading partners, the U.S. already enjoys tariff free status on over 90% of its feed and pet food exports to TPP countries.

Once implemented, TPP will eliminate roughly 81% of the remaining feed and pet food tariff lines upon entry into force. Additionally, 14% of the remaining feed and pet food tariff lines would be eliminated over a period of time and a TRQ will be implemented for the remaining tariff line.

The real value of this agreement for U.S. feed and pet food products will be in the expansion of market access for value-added products, i.e. meat, milk, and eggs. Another benefit of TPP for U.S. feed and pet food products are the SPS Chapter rules ensuring science-based identification and management of risks which are no more trade restrictive than necessary.

FORAGES

Overall the TPP will strengthen relations with countries who are members and benefit several U.S. Agriculture sectors by reducing tariffs and increased quotas. The effect of the TPP on U.S. forage exports is minimal as current forage exports to countries which are TPP members have minimal or no import tariffs and no quota restrictions on U.S forage products. There is potential benefit to the U.S. forage industry to gain market access, reduce tariffs and increase or eliminate quota restrictions if other countries decide to join TPP.

WHEAT

US wheat industry representatives on the ATAC GFOPS consider the recently completed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement to be positive for US wheat producers and the greater US wheat industry. On balance, TPP is a high-standard agreement that makes considerable progress in tariff reductions and improved market access for US wheat producers in the region represented by trading partners included in TPP.

More specifically, the agreement provides additional market opportunity for US producers in Japan, their current largest single export market, where the US already benefits from a sixty percent market share. US wheat sales to Japan were valued at nearly $1 billion in 2014. The TPP agreement also takes tariffs on imports of US wheat to zero in countries like Malaysia and Vietnam, both of which are currently growth markets for US wheat producers. The agreement as negotiated may also hold additional promise for the US wheat industry as other rapidly growing economies in the region (e.g., Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, and Philippines) may seek to join their neighbors in the TPP.

RICE

TPP partners contain important rice importers like Japan as well as significant export competitors such as Viet Nam and Australia. Some progress was made in advancing market access in Japan, but this was limited and partially undocumented, and is offset by an improvement in the competitiveness of Viet Nam's rice in Mexico, the largest single U.S. rice export market. Because of this, the rice provisions of the agreement are deficient and the administration should a) obtain a clear guarantee from Japan that new access described in the agreement will fill, and b) document promised additional access by Japan. We believe such guarantees can be achieved without reopening the agreement.

The TPP agreement provides additional access for U.S. rice in **Japan** for the first time since the Uruguay Round's Agreement on Agriculture was implemented in the mid-1990s. The TPP provides for an annual country specific quota (CSQ) of 50,000 mt of U.S. rice which increases to 70,000 mt over 13 years. This CSQ will be managed by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) utilizing a modified Simultaneous-Buy-Sell (SBS) system so that MAFF retains sole control over imports. Instructions for the operation of the modified SBS system are contained in a side letter between the two governments which is designed to address the U.S. industry and government concerns about the non-competitive and restrictive operation of the SBS under Japan's current import regime for rice.

Japan has promised an additional opportunity for new access for U.S. rice by designating a portion of the country's existing rice imports from members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as "medium grain rice for processing." In postings about the TPP agreement, MAFF has notified the new medium grain for processing category, but access is on an MFN basis and there is no clarity regarding an expected U.S. share.

Finally, Japan agreed to tariff reductions and elimination on rice-containing tariff lines, several of which are commercially important to the U.S. industry. Japan – the largest U.S. rice export market in the TPP – is the only TPP partner where existing import duties on U.S. rice will not be reduced or eliminated.

The new market access gained in Japan is significantly below the U.S. industry's very modest expectations, both in terms of quantity and quality of access. Documented access is well below the minimally acceptable 100,000 mt annually, and the industry is being asked to accept a verbal commitment for a substantial portion of overall new access. Improvements in the quality of access, meaning the guarantee that all consuming segments in Japan will have access to U.S. rice, is similarly limited and disappointing. The existence of a minimum mark up within the SBS system puts an effective tariff of approximately ¥22/kg ($186/mt) within the U.S. CSQ and could threaten quota fill, notwithstanding the provisions of the side letter.

Viet Nam's competitiveness in Mexico should increase at the expense of the United States because Mexico agreed to provide immediate tariff elimination on rice imports from all TPP partners upon entry into force *except* on milled rice imports. Mexico's import duties on milled rice are 20% and will be phased-out in equal installments over 10 years. Viet Nam's competition in Mexico is in the milled rice category.

For TPP partners without an existing free trade agreement with the United States, the TPP agreement will eliminate U.S. import duties upon entry into force except for imports from Japan and Malaysia which are not commercial rice exporters. Among TPP partners, Viet Nam will benefit most by the U.S. tariff elimination schedule.

SOYBEANS

For soybeans and soybean products the TPP agreement maintains all existing free trade and grants new and enhanced market access in Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Brunei.

Over half of the soybeans produced by American farmers are exported. The U.S. currently exports $5.5 billion worth of soybeans to the TPP region. This number is likely to grow under the new agreement.

The U.S. poultry and pork industries which are large consumers of soybean and soybean products for feed will benefit from improved access to TPP countries creating greater demand for domestic livestock feed. Increased domestic animal feed looks to have the greatest potential for soybeans in this agreement. The TPP nations represent many of the most promising established and emerging markets for U.S. soybeans and meat. As they grow, their demand for American products will grow as well.

BIODIESEL

We do not expect TPP to have a significant impact on U.S. biodiesel exports or imports.

PLANTING SEEDS

The U.S. Planting Seeds sector is a thriving science-based industry with an estimated $15 billion market value. With an annual export value of over $1.25 billion it is both the largest market for seeds in the world and the largest global exporter of seeds.

Creation of new plant varieties requires up to 15 years of research and millions of dollars in financial investment. Robust intellectual property protection is a key priority for the U.S. Planting Seeds industry. The inclusion of UPOV 91 and criminal treatment for trade secret theft and cross border counterfeit supply chains are valued as key elements of this treaty.

The most common non-tariff trade barrier challenge to cross-boundary movements of planting seeds are non-science-based import requirements that include pests not associated with seed. Although preferable to resolve these issues bilaterally, Cooperative Technical Consultations (CTC) is essential. The seven-day requirement for informing importers of prohibited shipments is a positive step forward.

We are pleased as the TPP is the first bilateral or regional U.S. trade agreement which includes biotechnology. This treaty rightfully stresses the vital significance of transparency and science-based regulations including the importance of Low Level Presence (LLP). There is concern that trade disruptions could occur when a biotech trait is approved under a science-based regulatory system but not by an importing TPP member. Since it is not possible to achieve zero tolerance, identification and implementation of a low-level LLP maximum concentration value would be helpful. Appropriate and transparent regulatory procedures will allow the U.S. Planting Seed industry to continue progressing in adoption of biotechnology and advanced agriculture in key emerging TPP markets. The establishment of a Biotechnology Working Group under the Agriculture Working Group is a positive step forward. It will be important that the U.S. Government actively work towards making this an effective group focused on LLP policies and functional regulatory systems.

The U.S. Planting Seeds industry supports the TPP agreement and congratulates all twelve negotiating governments on achieving this comprehensive, ambitious agreement.

PULSES

The U.S. pulse industry will see gains from immediate tariff elimination and reduction particularly in South East Asian markets such as Malaysia and Vietnam which are new, emerging markets for US pulse exports. Zero tariffs or a phase out to zero tariffs in four years means that US pulses can compete in these markets with all else being equal. Exports to Japan should increase with a more level playing field against competitors who are not TPP signatories with reduced tariffs and expanded TRQs. Most importantly, improved TRQ administration in Japan should result in improved fill rates and increased exports, possibly in other classes of beans besides the two classes that are currently exported from the U.S. markets in the Americas that are part of TPP all provide immediate elimination of duties in countries where the MFN rate was above zero. This is expected to improve competitiveness for U.S. origin pulses against other regional competitors on a seasonal basis.

The commitment by all parties to eliminate agricultural export subsidies along with creating a coalition working towards global agricultural export subsidies trade reform in the WTO is vital in order to level the playing field for our exports. Each of these provisions is beneficial to the U.S. pulse industry and has their full support.

Sanitary and phytosanitary issues are among the highest trade policy priorities of the U.S. pulse industry. It is important that “science-based SPS measures are developed and implemented in a transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory manner” as provided in the TPP. The risk analysis provisions specifying science-based SPS measures and requiring risk management measures to be commensurate with the risks involved will protect our market access. Transparency in the SPS regulatory process will help the industry avoid trade disruptions. Import checks based on science and actual risk, and specific notification requirements will also help avoid trade disruptions, and mitigate the impact when issues arise. The technical consultation procedures and dispute settlement framework will also help resolve issues in a timely way.

An improved regulatory framework creating an SPS and TBT regulatory framework based on sound science and managed by a stakeholder administrative body is expected to greatly improve trade flows for U.S. pulses to TPP countries that have used these barriers to protect local markets. The pulse industry finds the SPS provisions create the safeguards and processes that will enhance our efforts to expand trade in the region, and give industry exporters greater confidence in seeking new business. The SPS provisions in TPP also provide a helpful template for the negotiation of future trade agreements.

The implementation of “Conformity” which allows testing and certification by qualified parties to cross national lines is an important development in combatting technical barriers to trade in pulses. Conformity will allow new technologies to be adopted more quickly which will allow trade policies to keep up with scientific advances in crop protection and processing.

The adoption of Conformity should lessen the “lag time” between development of better ways to deliver safe and nutritious foods and importing country approval of the new technologies and processes developed.

Overall, the U.S. pulse industry finds the terms of the TPP support their continued growth as a supplier of pulses to the Pacific Rim and the world.

CANOLA

US exports of rapeseed/canola and products to the world totaled $200 million in FY 15 of which $172 million was to TPP countries. All tariffs on canola will be eliminated under this agreement.

Japan
Rapeseed currently enters Japan duty-free. Tariffs on rape and colza oil will be eliminated in six years. Canola meal currently enters duty-free.

Malaysia
Rape or colza seed and rapeseed or colza oil currently enter Malaysia duty-free. Meal is also duty-free.

Vietnam
Duties on rapeseed will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force. Duties on rapeseed oil will be eliminated in five – seven years. Meal is currently duty-free.

Brunei and New Zealand
All canola tariffs are either already duty-free or will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force.

SUNFLOWER

Sunflower seed and product exports to the world in FY 15 were $163 million with the TPP region accounting for $76 million. All tariffs on sunflowers will be eliminated under this agreement.

Japan
Imports of sunflower seed and sunflower meal currently enter Japan duty-free. Tariffs on sunflower oil will be eliminated in six years.

Malaysia
Imports of sunflower seeds, oil, and meal are all currently duty free.

Vietnam
Imports of sunflower meal are currently duty-free. The duties on sunflower seed will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force. Duties on sunflower seed oil will be eliminated in five to seven years.

Brunei and New Zealand
All sunflower tariffs are either already duty-free or will be eliminated immediately upon entry into force.

OTHER ISSUES

Some members of the Committee have expressed disappointment that the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement does not include provisions dealing with currency manipulation. Through the practice of currency manipulation, countries can eliminate any tariff reductions that may have been achieved in a free trade agreement. USTR has taken steps towards acknowledging the issue of currency manipulation through its side agreement and inclusion in the preamble. Unfortunately, the final agreement contained no enforceable provisions to address this issue. For a trade agreement of this size and scope to avoid addressing currency manipulation puts the US economy at a competitive disadvantage to the detriment of our workers and farmers.

VI. Grains, Feed, Oilseed, and Planting Seeds ATAC Membership

Name	Organization	City/State
Donald Latham **(Chair)**	United Soybean Board	Alexander, IA
Stanley Baker **(Vice Chair)**	Baker Seed Technologies, Inc.	Corvallis, OR
Rebecca Bratter	U.S. Dry Beans Council	North Bay Village, FL
Carlton Bridgeforth	National Black Growers Council	Tanner, AL
Lynn Clarkson	Clarkson Grain Company, Inc.	Oakley, IL
Sharon Covert	Illinois Soybean Association	Tiskilwa, IL
Robert Cummings	USA Rice Federation	Falls Church, VA
Dennis DeLaughter	U.S. Rice Producers Association	Austin, TX
Neal Fisher	North Dakota Wheat Commission	Tappen, ND
Floyd Gaibler	U.S. Grains Council	Washington, D.C.
Ron Gray	Gray Farms, Inc.	Claremont, IL
Paul Green	North American Millers Association	Washington, D.C.
Craig Hill	Iowa Farm Bureau	Milo, IA
William Hoffman	Hoffman Farms	Columbus, WI
Ellen Joslin	W.R. Joslin & Son, Inc.	Sidney, OH
Peter Klaiber	U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council	Moscow, ID
Karen Lowe	CoBank, ACB	Denver, CO
Michael Nichols	Nichols Family Farms, LLC	Rockport, IN
J. Steve Peirce, Jr.	RIBUS Inc.	Dana Point, CA
Paul Shubeck	POET Industries	Beresford, SD
Bernice Slutsky	American Seed Trade Association	Alexandria, VA
Larry Stenberg	DOW AgroSciences	Greenwood, IN
Matt Stutzman	Stutzman Farms, Inc.	Adrian, MI
Ron Suppes	Suppes Farms	Dighton, KS
Gina Tumbarello	American Feed Industry Association	Indianapolis, IN
Rodney Van Orman	Anderson Hay and Grain Co., Inc.	Ellensburg, WA
Gary Wertish	Minnesota Farmer's Union	Renville, MN