



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Jason Kearns
Chair
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chair Kearns:

On September 1, 2020, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) and the Departments of Agriculture (“USDA”) and Commerce (“Commerce”) announced a comprehensive plan to support American producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables. The plan resulted from hearings conducted by USTR, USDA, and Commerce on trade practices that might be contributing to unfair pricing of seasonal and perishable agricultural products in the United States. We received more than 300 written submissions, and more than 60 witnesses testified at two days of hearings. A transcript of the hearings and copies of written submissions are available at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID: USTR-2020-0010.

Among the Administration actions identified in the plan were the requests by USTR for the Commission to commence investigations into blueberries, strawberries, and bell peppers, that were the subjects of my September 29 and November 3 letters to you. The plan also noted that USTR, USDA, and Commerce would continue to monitor the seasonal and perishable fruit and vegetable industries and to consider potential future investigations.

To that end, 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 additional investigations into cucumbers and squash, and to prepare reports for cucumbers and squash as requested below. Specifically, the products in question consist of all imports that fall within the product descriptions under the following statistical reporting categories in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States:

- for cucumbers: 0707.00 (cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled); and
- for squash: 0709.93.20 (squash, fresh or chilled).

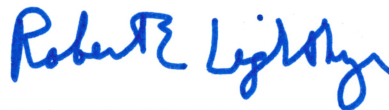
I respectfully request that the investigations and reports focus on the effect of imports on the domestic seasonal markets of the products in question, with particular focus on production and competitiveness of cucumbers and squash grown in the Southeastern United States. I would like

the reports to also include information on recent trends in trade in these products between the United States and its trading partners, including information on seasonal patterns of trade. Furthermore, I also request that the reports include descriptions of monthly price trends for these products in the United States, including an analysis and comparison of the prices of domestically produced products and imported products in the U.S. market, and I would like the reports to focus primarily on the 2015-2020 time period.

I request that the Commission transmit its reports no later than 12 months following receipt of this request. It is my desire that the Commission's reports will be made available to the public in their entirety, and therefore the reports should not include any business confidential information.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert E. Lighthizer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Robert E. Lighthizer