



Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Governor Michael R. Pence
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Ted A. McKinney, Director

June 10, 2015

Dear Members of the Indiana Congressional Delegation:

Indiana's agricultural industry plays a significant role in the overall health of our state's economy. We are recognized globally as a leader in agricultural production; thus, international trade is vitally important to our farmers and agribusinesses.

Last month, the World Trade Organization (WTO) found for the fourth and final time that current U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations were not compliant with WTO trade rules. Mexico and Canada, the United States' two largest export markets, are likely to respond with retaliatory actions. In fact, Canada has already asked the WTO to authorize \$3 billion in retaliatory measures that is scheduled to be heard by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on June 17, 2015.

Without promptly repealing COOL regulations, Indiana's economy along with our farmers and agribusinesses are situated to suffer significant job losses and financial struggles. Much of the positive momentum in our state's economy could be jeopardized without immediate action. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 2393 when it comes to the House floor later this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted A. McKinney". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a large, looping flourish at the end.