



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

September 1, 2015

The Honorable Dan Coats
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Donnelly
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coats and Senator Donnelly,

As you are well aware, 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.

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 tariffs that could cost \$3 billion to the U.S. economy.

Without promptly repealing COOL, 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.

In June, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2393 with bipartisan support that called for full repeal of COOL. Currently, the Senate has two competing COOL proposals. The Stabenow-Hoeven proposal creates a voluntary labeling program, whereas Chairman Roberts has authored an amendment similar to the House's version calling for a full repeal of COOL.

A voluntary labeling program will not prevent retaliatory action from Mexico and Canada. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to support Chairman Roberts in his efforts for a full repeal of COOL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted A. McKinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ted McKinney
Director, Indiana State Department of Agriculture