



August 4, 2005

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations thank you for voting for H.R. 3045, the Central American Free Trade Agreement - Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR) Implementation Act.

The benefits of CAFTA-DR for U.S. agriculture are abundantly clear. The main effect of the Agreement will be to reduce and eliminate duties on U.S. agricultural products in the six countries involved. Those duties average 11 percent and range upwards of 150 percent on certain products. By contrast, over 99 percent of U.S. agricultural imports from those countries already enter the U.S. duty-free.

Redressing this imbalance will boost U.S. exports and help U.S. exporters recapture market share lost in recent years to exporters from other countries that now receive preferential access to those markets. The economic growth and prosperity generated by this Agreement will create millions of new customers for U.S. food and agricultural products, not to mention the new prosperity felt by the citizens of our hemisphere who have never known prosperity.

The passage of CAFTA-DR reaffirms the United States' position on trade and sends a clear signal to our trading partners throughout the world that we are committed to the importance of global economic development and improved trading opportunity for U.S. agriculture.

We applaud your vote and your commitment to trade.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Transporters Conference of the American Trucking Associations
Altria Group, Inc.
American Bakers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute

American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.
American Potato Trade Alliance
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Animal Health Institute
Archer Daniels Midland
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Blue Diamond Growers
Bunge North America, Inc.
California Canning Peach Commission
California Fig Advisory Board
California Strawberry Commission
California Table Grape Commission
California Walnut Commission
Cargill, Incorporated
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Crowley Maritime Corp.
Diamond of California
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Elanco
Food Marketing Institute
Food Products Association
Georgia Poultry Federation
Grocery Manufacturers of America
Imperial Sugar Company
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils
International Dairy Foods Association
Louis Dreyfus Corporation
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Farmers Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grain Sorghum Producers
National Grain Trade Council
National Grange
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
North American Equipment Dealers Association
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Pet Food Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Snack Food Association
Sunkist Growers
Sunmaid Growers of California
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.
Sweetener Users Association
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.
United Egg Producers
United States Dry Bean Council
US Apple Association
US Hide, Skin and Leather Association
US Meat Export Federation
US Wheat Associates
USA Poultry and Egg Export Council
USA Rice Federation
Valley Fig Growers
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers Association
Wheat Export Trade Education Committee
WineAmerica