



## **Coalition warns against retaliation on Chinese trade case**

By Sara Wyant

© Copyright Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

An ad hoc coalition, which includes the National Pork Producers Council and 33 other food and agricultural organizations, sent a letter Thursday to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk urging him to consider the consequences of actions he might recommend be taken against China over tires imported into the United States.

President Obama is expected to make by Sept. 17 a decision on the findings of a U.S. International Trade Commission investigation of imports of certain car tires from China. The United Steelworkers filed a complaint with the ITC, claiming that a surge of Chinese tire imports had cost the union thousands of jobs. The ITC recommended a "safeguard action" of a 55% tariff on Chinese tires.

If the president accepts the ITC recommendation, the food and agricultural coalition is concerned that China will retaliate against U.S. products. Pork and soybeans, for example, have been mentioned as candidates for retaliation.

"We ask that you consider the effect of likely retaliatory action against U.S. food and agriculture products as you formulate your recommendations," the coalition said in its letter.

"Retaliatory actions by China against U.S. food and agricultural products, whether legally justified or not, would significantly affect U.S. farmers, ranchers and food companies at a time when many are facing serious financial problems. The already dire situation in several of these sectors would be compounded if their export opportunities to China were to be further eroded. For some, the Chinese market is the difference between profitability and possible bankruptcy."

The letter was signed by:

American Feed Industry Association  
American Meat Institute  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Commodity Markets Council  
Corn Refiners Association  
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.  
Hormel Foods Corporation  
International Dairy Foods Association  
Louis Dreyfus Commodities  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Meat Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Export Grain Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Pet Food Institute  
Tyson Foods, Inc.  
U.S. Grains Council  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.  
U.S. Meat Export Federation  
U.S. Wheat Associates  
U.S. Hides, Skins & Leather Association  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
USA Rice Federation