

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4319

December 13, 2024

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Vance Transition Team
The Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear President-Elect Trump,

We, the undersigned Members of Congress representing districts with significant cotton production, would like to congratulate you on your electoral victory and your impending inauguration as the 47th President of the United States. The voters have given you and Republicans in Congress a clear mandate to fuel economic growth and unleash American prosperity. When you begin your term on January 20th, we ask you keep the priorities of our nation's cotton producers in mind, as these farmers and ginneries bring great value to our nation and the rest of the world.

The last few years have been difficult for cotton growers in Rural America. Record droughts, soaring input costs, and falling commodity prices have posed significant challenges for these producers, causing many to accrue skyrocketing levels of debt and even go out of business. The absence of an updated Farm Bill has only exacerbated this dire situation, as producers face a lack of certainty and outdated federal support that has not adjusted to the historic inflation of the early 2020s. To top things off, the U.S. no longer leads the global market with Brazil surpassing the U.S. in 2024 as the world's largest cotton exporter.

Declining global market share poses a significant risk for the industry, as foreign markets account for over 80% of U.S. cotton demand. During the end of your first term, you negotiated the China Phase One Agreement (Phase One) which should have increased exports to China, the largest purchaser of American cotton at the time, but, unfortunately, the Biden Administration failed to enforce the agreement. Stagnated exports have exacerbated problems for producers, lowering prices and revenues for farmers and ginneries. Exports are essential to the success of the industry, and it is critical that the U.S. maintains its global competitiveness and seeks new ways to increase demand for American cotton.

Accordingly, we strongly urge your incoming administration to negotiate trade agreements that tangibly expand market access for these farmers and supplemental segments like cotton gins, warehouses, merchants, cooperatives, oil mills, and manufacturers. Opening new markets and reducing barriers for cotton would help U.S. producers compete, as several major textile-

producing countries maintain high tariffs and technical barriers to trade that restrict access for American cotton exports.

For example, India, the world's fourth largest exporter of textiles, has an 11% tariff on raw cotton imports. In addition, other major textile producers and trading partners like the European Union, Mexico, and Vietnam have technical barriers to trade related to certification delays for genetically engineered cotton that unnecessarily increase burdens for American cotton exporters.

Negotiating the removal of foreign trade barriers would expand export opportunities for the cotton industry, helping American exporters regain their global market dominance and adding a much-needed boost to the industry following the challenges of the last few years. As you take office on January 20th, we strongly encourage you to keep the priorities of our country's farmers and ranchers in mind and expand market access for American cotton.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Keith Self
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



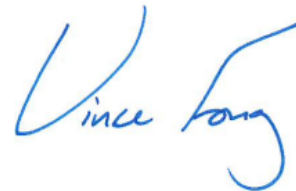
Juan Ciscomani
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Jake Ellzey
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Pat Fallon
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Pete Sessions
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Barry Moore
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