The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500  

Dear Mr. President,

We appreciate your commitment to supporting the farmers, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs working to grow America’s renewable fuel industry. The markets for agricultural products and the jobs the biodiesel industry creates are critical to rural economies across the nation.

We are writing to express our alarm that the U.S. Commerce Department has taken an unprecedented step that affords special treatment to Argentina at the expense of America’s biodiesel producers, soybean farmers and renderers.

By way of background, in December 2017, the U.S. International Trade Commission concluded that the U.S. biodiesel industry suffered significant harm as a direct result of Argentina’s unfair trade practices, which included dumping and subsidization. When the Department of Commerce took action earlier this year to level the playing field – by imposing significant antidumping and countervailing duties on Argentine biodiesel – U.S. biodiesel producers responded, increasing production by 18 percent, expanding capacity, and providing an important domestic market for soybean oil at a time when America’s farmers are especially vulnerable.

Given the importance of this new remedy for American energy and agriculture against unfair imports, it is a mystery that Commerce would open an expedited path for Argentina to reduce or remove the tariffs and resume their illegal imports. This political concession to the government of Argentina would once again distort U.S. markets and undercut crop prices that are only now regaining stability, following other trade disruptions.

Now that Commerce has initiated these “changed circumstances” reviews, we believe the agency must undertake a rigorous, comprehensive, and transparent fact-finding exercise covering the entire period from January 2017 (when the agency completed its previous examination) until today. **We urge you to ensure that Commerce’s review of these orders is no less rigorous and transparent than the “administrative reviews” that Commerce typically conducts in other cases.** To do anything less would strike a devastating blow to U.S. biodiesel producers and soybean farmers.

Fair trade is vital to America’s rural communities. Your administration has already taken important steps to help farmers weather uncertainty and retaliation during ongoing trade
negotiations. This support for U.S. farmers and biodiesel producers, however, is now being threatened by new and unprecedented proceedings at the Commerce Department.

Sincerely,

Donnell Rehagen  John Heisdorffer  Nancy Foster
CEO  President  President & CEO
National Biodiesel Board  American Soybean Association  National Renderers Association

CC:
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