

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
SECOND DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

VICE CHAIR

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND RELATED AGENCIES

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2407 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002
PHONE: (202) 225-3631
FAX: (202) 225-2203



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1002

DISTRICT OFFICES:

ALBANY

323 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 400
ALBANY, GA 31701
PHONE: (229) 439-8067
FAX: (229) 436-2099

COLUMBUS

18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201
COLUMBUS, GA 31901
PHONE: (706) 320-9477
FAX: (706) 320-9479

MACON

300 MULBERRY STREET, SUITE 502
MACON, GA 31201
PHONE: (478) 803-2631
FAX: (478) 803-2637

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

Despite slightly slower growth due to COVID-19, India remains one of the fastest growing economies in the world. A growing middle class, and demand for consumer-oriented agricultural products present opportunities for U.S. export growth in India. However, restrictive import tariffs on certain agricultural products constrain agricultural trade and undermine development of deeper trade relations.

One example is the current disparity in the tariffs India charges on products classified as tree nuts. The current tariff on U.S. pecans entering India is approximately 36% while the tariff for other similar products, such as pistachios and almonds, is much lower at 10%.

Reducing the tariff on pecans will encourage increased imports of a commodity that enjoys popularity in India and will generate greater revenue for the country. Furthermore, any increase in pecan imports from the U.S. would not impact domestic pecan production in India because the country currently produces very little, if any pecans. Conversely, an increase in U.S. pecan exports to India would have a tremendous positive impact on the pecan industry which has struggled in recent years due to Chinese tariffs on U.S. pecan imports, a loss in U.S. production capacity due to tree loss during Hurricane Michael in 2018, and rising U.S. pecan imports from Mexico.

Additionally, increasing U.S. pecan imports to India presents an opportunity to advance issues important to rural America. The pecan industry contributes over \$3.75 billion to the rural economies of the 15 pecan-producing southern states stretching from the Carolinas to California. Pecan exports alone over the last 10 years added an additional \$1.25 billion in economic activity in rural America. In my state of Georgia, the pecan industry contributes more than \$250 million to our state economy – providing good-paying middle-class jobs in rural areas that continue to struggle to recover from multiple economic disruptions over the last two decades.

As the U.S. and India plan the next ministerial meeting of the Trade Policy Forum later this year, it is imperative that a key part of strengthening the bilateral trade relationship between India and the U.S. includes reducing the prohibitive tariffs that restrict U.S. exports of pecans.

I look forward to working with your office on this issue, and I thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress