

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0305**

August 30, 2022

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

Dear Ambassador Tai,

The emerging global food crisis demands action from the United States and our global trading partners. Soaring food prices are driving millions into poverty around the world. While much of the global crisis is outside the direct control of the United States since food and fertilizer are traded on a global market, the Biden Administration's war on domestic energy production and other radical environmental policies have contributed to rising prices of these commodities.

According to World Bank data, "92.9% of low-income, 92.7% of lower-middle-income, and 89% of upper-middle-income have seen inflation levels above 5%, with many experiencing double-digit inflation."<sup>1</sup> Consumers in the United States are being hammered by rising food prices. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, "In 2022, food price increases are expected to be above the increases for 2020 and 2021. In 2022, food-at home prices are predicted to increase between 10.0 and 11.0 percent, and food-away-from-home prices are predicted to increase between 6.5 and 7.5 percent."<sup>2</sup>

While we appreciate that some relief may be on the way, contingent on Ukraine's ability to export grain, we believe that steps must be taken by the United States to increase supply and to ensure that global markets are functioning effectively.

Please provide answers to the following questions by September 16, 2022:

1. What steps are being taken to provide relief for domestic producers through the reduction of trade barriers for agriculture inputs?
2. What steps are being taken to provide relief for domestic consumers through the reduction or elimination of duties on imports on fairly traded food and agriculture inputs?
3. What steps are being taken to address China's effective ban on the export of phosphates?

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<sup>1</sup> The World Bank, Food Security Update (August 15, 2022)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Food Price Outlook 2022 (July 25, 2022)

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>

4. What steps are being taken to prevent other regional export restrictions on agricultural products and agriculture inputs?
5. What steps are being taken to reduce foreign barriers to the importation of domestically produced food and agriculture inputs?
6. What role is the United States playing in ensuring that Ukrainian grain exports continue to reach global markets?
7. What are the implications for the United States if Russia fails to hold up their end of the UN-brokered agreement on agriculture exports from Ukraine?

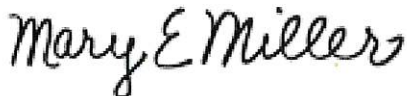
Sincerely,



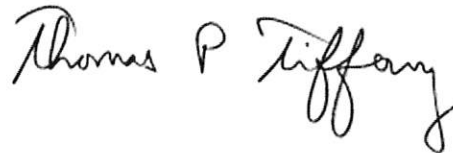
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



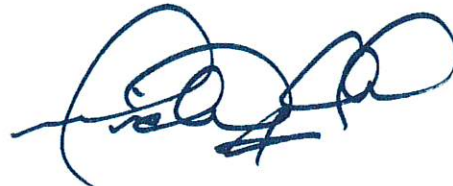
Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress




Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harris M.D." in a cursive style.

Andy Harris M.D.  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy K. Weber" in a cursive style.

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Grothman" in a cursive style.

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Emmer" in a cursive style.

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress