Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to you ahead of Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae's visit to request that you urge the Prime Minister to open Japan's market to U.S. fresh (table stock) potatoes. Gaining fresh access to Japan would result in an estimated $150 million a year in new American potato exports. Put in perspective, new market access would make Japan the largest export market for U.S. fresh potatoes outside of North America and bring tremendous benefits for farming communities in our states.

U.S. potato growers produce the best potatoes in the world. International trade and foreign export markets are critical to the U.S. potato industry. About 20 percent of American-grown potatoes are exported around the world, contributing nearly $4.8 billion in economic growth and supporting nearly 34,000 jobs in the United States. U.S. growers have a long history of exporting fresh potatoes to markets across the Indo-Pacific, including South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. These exports occur safely and on a routine basis, providing mutual benefits for consumers abroad and growers here at home.

Japan, however, continues to shut U.S. potatoes out of its market with no scientific basis. The United States first requested fresh potato access in Japan over thirty years ago; the market access petition was elevated to a top priority in U.S.-Japan plant health negotiations in September 2019. But since then—despite the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Office of the United States Trade Representative—Japan continues to delay substantive technical discussions on table stock potato access. There is no valid phytosanitary justification for these delays.

With low commodity prices and increased input costs this year, the potato sector, and specialty crops more broadly, are facing a major economic crisis. Japan represents a massive market with significant export opportunities for American potato growers. Securing this long-delayed market access petition and unlocking the critical Japanese export market would make a meaningful difference for potato growers in our states and across the country.

Technical discussions have not made meaningful progress. We urge you to prioritize this issue in your discussions with the Prime Minister and find a lasting solution for U.S. potato growers. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to assist as needed.

Sincerely,

Mike Crapo

Michael D. Crapo
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on Finance

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance

Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress

Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tony Wied
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Gabe Evans
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Tim Sheehy
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Pete Ricketts
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Ryan Mackenzie
Member of Congress

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

John James
Member of Congress

Brad Finstad
Member of Congress

Ted Budd
United States Senator

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Ron Johnson
United States Senator

cc: Ambassador Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture