

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2023

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative (USTR)
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

As you prepare for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States this week, we write to express our strong support for continued dialogue between your office and the Republic of India regarding market access for U.S. turkey and poultry products. Currently, U.S. turkey and poultry exporters face significant barriers to access the Indian market due to prohibitively high tariff rates and certain non-tariff barriers. We strongly encourage you to use this opportunity to advocate for increased market access for our turkey and poultry producers, which would significantly benefit both nations.

Currently, India imposes prohibitively high tariffs on U.S. turkey and chicken products that does not allow for significant market access for U.S. producers. Today, India maintains a 30 percent duty on U.S. turkey products and a duty of up to 100 percent on chicken products. For turkey producers, this 30 percent duty overprices the product for Indian consumers and effectively prevents U.S. exporters from participating in this fast-growing market.

India continues to maintain this prohibitive tariff rate despite not possessing a significant domestic turkey industry that could be threatened by increased access for U.S. turkey producers. Eliminating or at least significantly reducing the tariff rate for U.S. turkey products would allow our turkey growers to compete in this rapidly expanding market while providing Indian consumers a high-quality and affordable source of protein, which is in high demand.

We appreciate your efforts in pursuing and opening the current line of dialogue with India on market access issues and your desire to build a stronger and more robust bilateral trade relationship. We ask that as you continue to engage your Indian counterparts, you aggressively pursue improved and meaningful access for U.S. turkey and poultry products. Increased market access for U.S. turkey and poultry growers would be mutually beneficial for producers and consumers in the U.S. and India and would help further strengthen the special relationship between our nations.

We look forward to working with you to help expand and strengthen the U.S. – India trade relationship and create expanded opportunities for our turkey and poultry producers.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator