

BRIAN J. MAST  
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3026

171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE  
STUART, FLORIDA 34994  
(772) 781-3266

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0918

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your leadership during this difficult time. As we all consider efforts to maintain the economic drivers of our economy, we urgently ask for your support in providing relief to Florida farmers who are sustaining the double blow of abruptly lost markets during the COVID-19 pandemic on top of ever-growing unfair competition from Mexican produce.

For decades, the seasonal and perishable industry in Florida has fallen victim to heavily subsidized, unfairly priced Mexican imports, which have severely undercut domestic production and created an ongoing legacy of family farm closures throughout the state. Now, with our growers already suffering the burden of that unfair competition, Florida fruit and vegetable growers have witnessed their markets disappear overnight as major outlets shut down due to the pandemic. A great many Florida growers have been forced to abandon their crops in the field even as unfairly priced Mexican produce continues to pour across our borders.

Given these dire circumstances, we urge you to provide on the most expedited possible basis all necessary relief to our Florida produce growers. To address the immediate harm of markets being lost overnight, we urge you to provide relief as soon as possible to Florida farmers as authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, including financial assistance to producers, Section 32 commodity purchases and other possible forms of aid under that Act or other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorities. Although this assistance will not redress the unfair Mexican pricing practices that still critically need to be addressed, it will help mitigate the acute, immediate losses now being felt throughout Florida.

We thank USDA for its efforts during this difficult time and stand ready to work closely with you and others in the Administration to secure the relief our grower community so critically needs.

Sincerely,



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Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



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Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress



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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



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Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Al Lawson  
Member of Congress




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Ross Spano  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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Val Demings  
Member of Congress



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Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress