

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Pritzker and Ambassador Froman:

We are writing to draw your attention to Turkey's ongoing antidumping investigation of U.S. cotton. While we respect the right of every WTO member to conduct such a review, we are concerned that the situation is being driven by factors unrelated to the import of U.S. cotton. We strongly encourage U.S. government engagement to ensure proper handling of the investigation and to prevent this situation from further damaging our valued trading relationship with Turkey.

As you are aware, the United States recently imposed antidumping duties on steel products from Turkey. We are concerned about press reports that indicate Turkey's Minister of Economy, Nihat Zeybekci, has made statements indicating a potential retaliatory motivation for the action being taken against U.S. cotton.

It is our understanding that Turkey's Ministry of Economy initiated the investigation without being asked to do so by Turkish cotton producers or by domestic industry and without citing special circumstances that would justify such action. Furthermore, we understand that their self-initiation report may contain a number of unsupported findings that fail to meet evidentiary requirements for self-initiation in accordance with WTO rules.

If true, these factors would be deeply concerning. Politically driven retaliation has no place in the rules-based global trading system. Therefore, we request that the Department of Commerce and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative consider seeking status for the U.S. government as an interested party in the investigation and closely follow the investigation to ensure WTO rules are properly followed.

Our nation's relationship with Turkey is very important. We want to ensure our economic ties continue to grow in accordance with existing international trade rules.

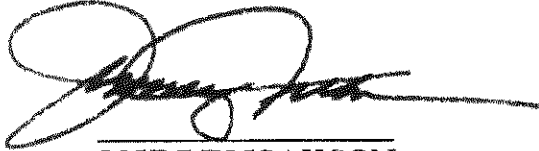
Sincerely,



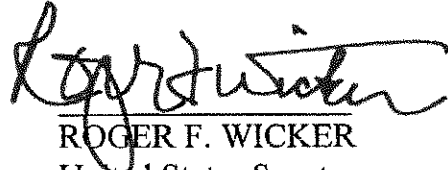
THAD COCHRAN  
United States Senator



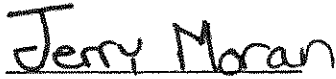
JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator



ROGER F. WICKER  
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN  
United States Senator



JOHN BOOZMAN  
United States Senator



BOB CORKER  
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR  
United States Senator

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His Excellency Serdar Kilic  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey  
2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kilic:

We are writing with regard to Turkey's antidumping investigation of U.S. cotton, which was self-initiated by the Ministry of Economy on October 18, 2014.

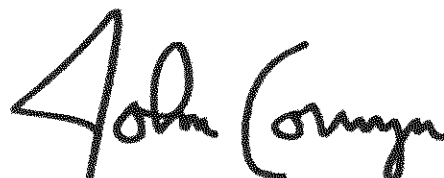
It is our understanding that the Turkish government initiated this investigation without being asked to do so by Turkish cotton producers or by domestic industries, and there appears to be no clear evidence of dumping of U.S. cotton exports. Although World Trade Organization (WTO) rules allow self-initiated cases when based on "special circumstances," none appear to have been cited so far. Thus, we are concerned that the situation might be driven by factors unrelated to the import of U.S. cotton.

Turkey is an important trading partner of the United States, and we value our relationship. We hope that unwarranted trade barriers will not reduce our economic ties. Members of Congress have already engaged the Department of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative on this issue. We would also appreciate your assistance in helping resolve this matter in order to prevent unnecessary harm to both of our industries and to guard our mutual economic relationship.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

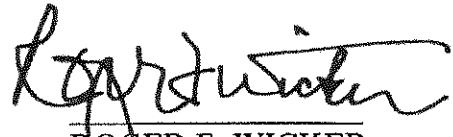
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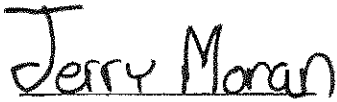
  
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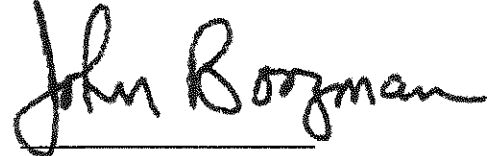
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