

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2014

Ambassador Michael Froman
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador:

Vietnam's fish and shellfish exports to the United States have a significant impact on the U.S. fishing industry, aquaculture industry and U.S. consumers. The upcoming negotiations on the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement between United States and Vietnam should include tangible, concrete measures to address and remedy the deleterious impact Vietnam's fisheries exports are having on the U.S. industry and consumers.

Vietnam is one of the world's largest seafood exporters, but the Vietnamese seafood and aquaculture industry has repeatedly skirted international norms and standards. Exports to the United States have frequently contained illegal veterinary medicines, fungicides and other chemicals that pose significant risks to the health of U.S. consumers and Vietnam has refused to ensure that its exports meet U.S. food safety standards.

In addition, shrimp and catfish exports have been illegally dumped into the U.S. market at artificially low prices that unfairly disadvantage U.S. shrimpers and catfish farmers. Some exports are also potentially benefitting from illegal government subsidies, which further harms the U.S. industry.

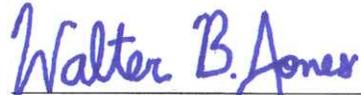
Vietnam has also been a point of transshipment of seafood products from China designed to evade either antidumping orders, countervailing duty orders and/or Food and Drug Administration Import Alert orders.

Any TPP negotiations to provide Vietnam with increased seafood and fisheries market access to the United States must include binding, enforceable provisions in the body of the agreement to address these critical issues. Vietnam's aquaculture and fisheries industry has been a scofflaw of U.S. food safety and trade rules for too long, these negotiations provide a key leverage point to ensure that Vietnam's industry plays by the rules and does not unfairly disadvantage American fishing and aquaculture industries or imperil consumers with dangerous seafood exports.

As representatives of the United States, we call on you to champion for our domestic seafood industry. No trade accord with Vietnam should come at the expense of American consumers or their businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Walter B. Jones (NC-3)


Rick Crawford (AR-1)


Steve Stockman (TX-36)


Mike McIntyre (NC-7)