

JONI K. ERNST  
IOWA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
111 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
PHONE: 202-224-3254  
FAX: 202-224-9369  
WWW.ERNST.SENATE.GOV

# United States Senate

May 10, 2018

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION  
AND FORESTRY  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
SMALL BUSINESS  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As the United States continues bilateral trade negotiations with China and the Section 301 Committee prepares for its public hearing on May 15, I write to urge you to reconsider the tariffs on Chinese imports and pursue policies that enhance American competitiveness, rather than reduce our access to foreign markets.

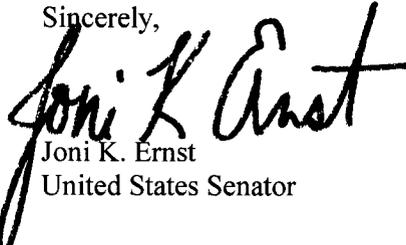
As Chairman of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I recognize the complex threats we face when protecting our nation's intellectual property, both for our economy and security. Furthermore, I believe the President is right to increase pressure on China to change its ways. At the same time, the United States should foster more dialogue to expand international market opportunities for our country's goods and agriculture around the globe and use these contributions to reduce the trade deficit.

Already, we are seeing the danger these tariffs pose on the United States' exports. Recent data from the United States Department of Agriculture revealed that Chinese importers have curbed shipments of soybeans and cut orders of pork. The data also showed that sales of soybeans have fallen from 8.3 million bushels during the first week of April, when the trade dispute began, to just 290,000 bushels during the final week of April.

With South American countries like Brazil and Argentina eager to gain and aggressively pursue global market share for key agricultural products, China is an increasingly important market from which U.S. producers can't afford to lose access. Furthermore, the Administration's action could hurt global supply chains and lead to higher consumer prices. Experiencing a sixth consecutive year of declining farm income, hardworking farmers and ranchers are already struggling to remain profitable and make ends meet.

It's my hope that the Trump Administration will reconsider these tariffs and pursue policies that enhance our competitiveness, rather than reduce our access to foreign markets. The Administration must pursue trade policies that make the U.S. a partner of choice for nations that may otherwise turn to less free and democratic nations for trade. I look forward to continuing the dialogue about these concerns as the Administration negotiates toward a solution with China.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

DES MOINES OFFICE  
733 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309  
PHONE: 515-284-4574  
FAX: 515-284-4937

CEDAR RAPIDS OFFICE  
111 SEVENTH AVENUE SE  
SUITE 480  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401  
PHONE: 319-365-4504  
FAX: 319-365-4683

DAVENPORT OFFICE  
201 WEST SECOND STREET  
SUITE 806  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801  
PHONE: 563-322-0677  
FAX: 563-322-0854

SIOUX CITY OFFICE  
194 FEDERAL BUILDING  
320 SIXTH STREET  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101  
PHONE: 712-252-1550  
FAX: 712-252-1638

COUNCIL BLUFFS OFFICE  
221 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH SIXTH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501  
PHONE: 712-352-1167  
FAX: 712-352-0087