Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

August 12, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

I write today to urge you to stop this unnecessary trade war between the United States and our international partners, including China. The never-ending tariffs are having a direct, negative impact on many industries in our state, but perhaps none more than agriculture.

Agriculture is an $88 billion industry in Wisconsin, and one out of every nine people working in our state hold a job related to agriculture. When our farmers thrive, our rural communities thrive, and the ripple effect continues across our entire state. Unfortunately, farmers of all commodities have been hit by a triple whammy of trade uncertainty, low selling prices for their products, and bad weather. This has put many Wisconsin farm families into extremely difficult situations. They've lost income, business, and the confidence in knowing that their contributions are valued by their government.

Productive trade relationships take years of time and energy to build, but as we've seen, they can be destroyed overnight. One Tweet can harm thousands of Wisconsin citizens who make their living in our agricultural industry. As many farmers will tell you, aid payments cannot make up for what they've lost financially or personally. A government check simply does not make up for the pride they felt knowing they were getting a fair price for their high-quality corn, soybeans, or ginseng.

Wisconsin's farmers deserve better than this. That's why the people of our state proposed a budget that makes a down payment on the infrastructure and programs that matter to our rural communities and support Wisconsin's agriculture industry. These investments will help farmers develop locally-tailored water quality solutions in their own watershed, get farmers' products into their local markets, and connect directly with consumers around the world.

Farmers want trade more than government aid. They deserve better than short-sighted trade wars that do lasting damage to their businesses and their heritage. They have told us what we can do to support them, and tariffs are not on the list. I urge you to listen to them, end these unproductive trade wars, and work immediately to restore these critical trade relationships.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers

Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin