



WASHINGTON STATE POTATO COMMISSION  
108 INTERLAKE ROAD, MOSES LAKE, WA 98837  
PH: 509 765-8845 FAX: 509 765-4853 WWW.POTATOES.COM

May 6, 2013

Mr. David Weiner  
Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
Executive Office of the President  
600 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

RE: Request for Comments and Notice of public hearing concerning Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (Docket ID USTR-2013-0019)

Dear Mr. Weiner:

On behalf of Washington State potato growers, I am writing to provide comments on the recently proposed Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.

On average our farmers will produce over 9 billion pounds of potatoes, mostly used in processing applications, for example the manufacturing of frozen french fries, potato chips and dehydrated potatoes or instant mashed potatoes. We also support a robust fresh potato industry which exports quality table-stock potatoes around the globe. We estimate that 9 out of every 10 potatoes grown will leave the state.

For any trade agreement to be meaningful the elimination tariffs of should be the first step in the process. But what we have found is the need to couple the elimination of tariffs with a discussion of regulatory and other non-tariff barriers to trade. Many EU sanitary and phytosanitary regulations on our agricultural exports prevent trade and TTIP must find a way to increase regulatory cooperation so that enforceable and meaningful regulatory approval of a commodity is accepted in all Member Countries.

Also for our industry to compete on an equal platform, the US must address how the EU applies subsidies to land and revenue guarantees which enhances fruit and vegetable production, transportation inequalities, and if VAT derogations between Member States can be used to promote trade advantages.

Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Harris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Harris  
Assistant Executive Director  
Director of Governmental Affairs  
Washington State Potato Commission