

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
Ambassador  
U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Tai:

We write to express our concern with restrictions by the Government of South Africa that deny U.S. pork products equitable and reasonable market access. We urge you raise these issues in your bilateral conversations with the South African Government and consider them as you conduct the ongoing African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) annual review process. Further, as Congress considers renewal of AGOA, we stand ready to work with you to ensure the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has effective tools available to enforce equitable, science-based treatment for U.S. pork exports to South Africa.

For decades, South Africa has received preferential trade benefits under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and AGOA programs. South Africa is our largest trading partner in Africa, and the United States is South Africa's second-largest export destination, with total two-way trade of \$20.1 billion in 2023.<sup>1</sup> As you know, AGOA beneficiaries are required to provide "reasonable and equitable treatment" for U.S. exports.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, South Africa refuses to follow international standards on pork products or uphold market access commitments made during the 2015 AGOA reauthorization.

Among those unwarranted, non-scientific U.S. pork restrictions are a ban on imported offal, heat-treated or canned products, and casings; a requirement that lymph nodes be removed from shoulder cuts; trichinae-related freezing requirements; and limits on imported cuts over unfounded concerns related to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome and the pseudorabies virus.<sup>3</sup> These restrictions provide unreasonable and unequitable treatment of our exports.

As a result, and despite pork being an important source of protein in South Africa, the country imports very little pork from the United States – just 313 metric tons, valued at \$718,000 in 2023. That represents less than 1.3% of total South African pork imports.<sup>4</sup>

South Africa must live up to its market access commitments and eliminate its non-tariff barriers to pork trade to continue enjoying the benefits of GSP and AGOA. We urge USTR to continue to

<sup>1</sup> United States International Trade Commission DataWeb, Search on 3/25/24. <https://dataweb.usitc.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> United States Congress, Trade Act of 1974, (Section. 502(c)(4)) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-10384/pdf/COMPS-10384.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The Office of the United States Trade Representative, "National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers" (2023) p. 371 <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/2023%20NTE%20Report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, Global Agricultural Trade System, Report generated on 2/7/24. <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>

engage counterparts and utilize all tools available to ensure South Africa provides fair market access for U.S. pork, as outlined in AGOA. Thank you for your previous engagement on this matter and we look forward to continuing to work with you to address this issue.

Sincerely,



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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



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Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



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Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



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Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



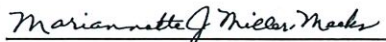
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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



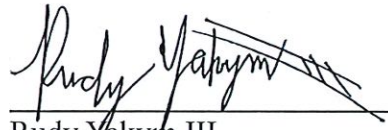
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



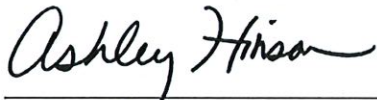
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Rudy Yakym III  
Member of Congress



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Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



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Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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James R. Baird  
Member of Congress