

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2025

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

President Trump,

We appreciate your efforts to strengthen the United States economy by improving our manufacturing and production capabilities and ensuring legal and fair trade practices with countries worldwide. As you meet world leaders and negotiate a level playing field for American industries, please keep in mind the agriculture, seafood, timber, and manufacturing industries that are the lifeblood of Louisiana's economy.

Over the years, the United States rice industry has been under attack by bad actors worldwide. Our American rice farmers and mills contribute more than \$34 billion to the U.S. economy through jobs, investment, and sales to produce and process high-quality, safe rice. However, this vital industry is being displaced by heavily subsidized rice from India, Thailand, Vietnam, China, and Pakistan, both here at home and abroad. Even more concerning is imports of foreign rice into the U.S. have doubled in the last decade with a record \$1.5 billion in 2024. These imports have displaced one-for-one purchases from rice mills in the mid-South and California as well as pressured lower prices.

U.S. rice farmers and millers rely on exports to bring economic growth and stability to their local economies, and these illegal and unfair trade practices continuously push global rice prices lower than levels where the U.S. can compete. India's recent elimination of its non-basmati rice export ban has only further deteriorated prices and hindered U.S. rice export competitiveness. Until legal and fair trade practices from these countries occur, we respectfully urge your administration to use tools at your disposal, including levying tariffs up to 100% on all Indian, Thai, Chinese, Pakistani, and Vietnamese rice imports to help encourage a level playing field for U.S. rice farmers and processors.

Mr. President, we respectfully request that you and your administration act quickly to protect America's industries and, especially, ensure that we keep our food produced in the United States. We thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you and your administration to put America first.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress