

ANGIE CRAIG  
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY AND CREDIT  
LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2302

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

July 2, 2019

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

RE: USTR-2019-0004

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

I write today on behalf of businesses in the Second Congressional District of Minnesota in opposition to the issuance of yet another round of tariffs as the United States negotiates with China. While I recognize the President has agreed to continue talks with China and halt another round for now, the threat of future tariffs and a lack of an immediate resolution leaves Minnesota businesses and consumers hanging in the balance. Should the Administration plan to move forward with tariffs on this fourth list of products in the future, businesses in my district will face stunted growth and working families risk losing their jobs.

For small businesses like Storm Creek of Hastings, an outdoor outfitter, the prospect of an additional 25 percent tariff would place a significant burden on their ability to grow their business. In 2018, Storm Creek imported \$623,000 worth of products from China and paid \$171,580 in duties – over 27 percent. Storm Creek employs 25 workers in Hastings, as well as 25 sales representatives across the country. However, with the mounting costs of these tariffs, Storm Creek could be forced to delay hiring for new jobs. These manufacturers face no other choice but to pass on these increased costs to consumers, jeopardizing a customer base and continuing to drive down business.

Retaliation to the tariffs already in place with China continue to negatively impact Minnesota farmers as well. With record low farm incomes, this trade war continues to threaten the fabric of Minnesota farm families with no end in sight. I agree that we must hold China accountable for their unfair practices with American companies. However, a lack of clear strategy hurts Minnesota businesses, farmers, and working families. I stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to find an end to this reckless trade war and return to stable relationships with our trading partners.

Sincerely,

  
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress