

***The Mining Association of Canada / Aerospace Industries Association of Canada / Winery & Grower Alliance of Ontario / Maple Leaf Foods Inc. / Alliance of Ontario Food Processors / Beef Farmers of Ontario / I.E Canada / BlackBerry / Pulse Canada / Canadian Cattlemen's Association / Canadian Pork Council //Canadian Agri-food Trade Alliance / Malting Industry Association of Canada / Canadian Meat Council - Conestoga Meat Packers Ltd / Sunworld Farms Ltd / Cargill Beef Canada / Ontario Bean Growers / Canada Pork International / Quality Meat Packers Ltd / Ontario Pork / Fur Institute / Pet Food Association of Canada / North American Fur Auctions / Canola Council of Canada / Grain Growers of Canada / Canadian Canola Growers Association/ Andrew Peller Limited / Spirits Canada / Canadian Vintners Association / Canadian Apparel Federation***

February 10, 2014

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper, P.C., M.P.,

As companies and organizations representing key economic sectors in Ontario and across the country, we have followed closely the negotiations of a free trade agreement between Canada and South Korea, since their beginning, nearly 9 years ago. A lucrative market of 50 million consumers and a key hub of Asian supply chains, South Korea is Canada's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner, and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Asia.

Unfortunately, the fact that the United States, European Union and, most recently, Australia have all concluded Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with South Korea has put Canadian exporters at a significant competitive disadvantage in that market. In the first year since the Korea-US FTA took effect in 2012, Canada's exports to Korea dropped by 30% (over \$1.5 billion), and the downward trend is continuing as our competitors enjoy preferential terms of trade that Canada doesn't. This continuing eviction of Canadian companies from the strategically important Korean market, and our competitive disadvantage, threatens Canadians' prosperity and jobs.

Concluding an FTA with Korea is imperative to restore a level playing field for Canadian firms in the Korean market and to protect and create jobs for workers in key sectors of our economy, including such critically-important sectors in Ontario as wines and spirits, information technology, services, and advanced manufacturing including food processing, aerospace, agriculture and medical devices to name just a few. Our export-oriented sectors are eager to see Canada negotiate and conclude a free trade agreement with Korea to secure our access to that market, and through it, the larger Asia-Pacific region.

We commend the Canadian government for its continued effort and focus on this important market and trading partner, and your pursuit of a high-quality, modern FTA. We urge you to successfully conclude this FTA with South Korea at the earliest possible opportunity, and we urge all other levels of government - whose local companies and workers are today paying the price as a result of the absence of an agreement - to provide their full support as well. Only the conclusion of an FTA with South Korea will protect and create jobs by restoring a level playing field for Canadian companies and workers, and reversing the ongoing economic eviction of Canadian companies from the South Korean market.

We stand ready to support your leadership in those negotiations and are eager to highlight the importance and the benefits of such an agreement for our sector and companies.

Sincerely,



Jim Quick  
President & CEO  
Aerospace Industries  
Association of Canada



Patrick Gedge  
President & CEO  
Winery & Grower  
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Michael McCain  
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John Chen  
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Pulse Canada



Martin Unrau  
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Canadian Cattlemen's  
Association



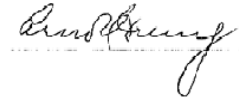
Jean-Guy Vincent  
Chairman  
Canadian Pork Council



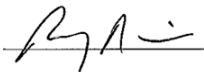
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Canadian Agri-food  
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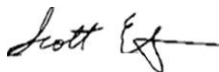
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Ray Price  
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Canada Pork International



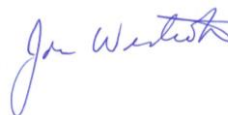
David Schwartz  
President & CEO  
Quality Meat Packers Ltd



Amy Cronin  
Chair  
Ontario Pork



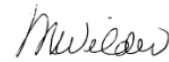
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Rick White  
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Elliot Lifson  
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Canadian Apparel Federation

c.c. Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario