

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence Kudlow  
Director, National Economic Council  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Director Kudlow and Secretary Perdue,

I write today to request clarity on the President's claim that China will be making large purchases of agricultural products. Despite claiming that China would be making these purchases as part of an agreement to delay additional tariffs on Chinese imports, there has been no indication that China has made any large purchases since the announcement. Further, Chinese officials have disputed that there was any agreement to make the purchases at all.

Considering the extraordinarily high levels of uncertainty stemming from retaliatory tariffs, low commodity prices, and difficult planting conditions, farmers should be given clarity about what, if any, additional agriculture purchases will be made by China. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, President Trump said that agriculture purchases from China would begin "very soon, almost immediately". However, in the nearly three weeks since, Administration officials have been unable to offer any specifics about these purchases or even to confirm that any purchases will be made at all. Indeed, on July 11<sup>th</sup>, the President himself admitted that no purchases had been made but that they would "hopefully" be coming soon.

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Kudlow stated that the Administration expects that China will soon be announcing "some large scale purchases" but offered no further details. Farmers in Wisconsin and across the country are under intense pressure to stay above water, and any notifications of additional agriculture purchases should be clearly communicated to Congress and the public. Unfortunately, the Administration's inconsistent and hasty explanations for the lack of these promised purchases have failed to provide any certainty for our farmers.

Since Secretary Perdue acknowledged that farmers are "one of the casualties" in the President's trade war, I request that you provide my office with any additional details about the President's claims regarding agriculture purchases from China and appreciate your attention to this pressing matter. Please let me know if you require any further information from my office.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress