

CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., MD  
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN ON OVERSIGHT  
TRADE  
HUMAN RESOURCES



## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1803

April 20, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:

1431 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2031

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT OFFICE:

800 LAFAYETTE STREET  
SUITE 1400  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70501  
(337) 235-6322

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT OFFICE:

ONE LAKESHORE DRIVE  
SUITE 1775  
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70629  
(337) 433-1747

The Honorable Michael Froman  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As you continue to push ahead in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, I write to highlight the importance of the U.S. sugar industry, which supports 142,000 jobs and generates \$20 billion a year for the U.S. economy. In my home state of Louisiana alone, the sugar industry sustains more than 16,000 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity.

As you know, the U.S. is one of the world's largest sugar importers, with imports accounting for almost 30 percent of our consumption. It is essential that we maintain a strong U.S. sugar industry to ensure that our domestic needs for reliable, high quality sugar will be met.

The danger of imports oversupplying our market as a result of previous trade commitments has already been demonstrated in the U.S. Recently, Mexican imports ultimately overwhelmed our market with subsidized dumped sugar, collapsing the U.S. price and causing the traditionally no-cost U.S. sugar policy to incur the first government cost in 11 years. While I am hopeful the suspension agreements negotiated as a result of the anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases filed by the industry will correct this situation, the effectiveness of these agreements - or indeed, whether they will remain in place - is still uncertain.

Without an effective U.S. sugar policy, the sugar industry's contribution to our economy would be jeopardized. In Louisiana, the loss of this economic engine would be devastating. I understand that you are working closely with our sugar industry representatives to ensure that this objective is achieved. I strongly urge that every effort be made to reach a mutually acceptable outcome.

Please keep me informed on the situation with respect to sugar as TPP negotiations continue to develop. I look forward to working with you to bring this historic agreement to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C.W. Boustany Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles W. Boustany Jr., MD  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS