

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 28, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Agriculture Committee
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

We are writing to express our support for the inclusion of language in the Farm Bill to streamline U.S. apple exports by exempting bulk shipments of apples to Canada from inspection under the Apple Export Act. Bulk Shipments are defined as any unit or container of apples weighing over 100 lbs. This no-cost, common-sense amendment supports our robust agriculture economy by helping apple farmers in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Virginia, California, Vermont, and Massachusetts to more efficiently access the export market.

Currently, the Department of Agriculture requires the inspection of all apple exports under the Apple and Pear Export Act of 1933. In 1999, the law was changed to exclude pears. The elimination of the required inspection would immediately offer a savings to growers of approximately \$225 per truckload. Given that past US exports of apples to Canada have recently averaged around 2.5 million bushels annually, this amendment could save U.S. apple growers over \$550,000 each year. Additionally, removing this regulation would allow apple growers to distribute their products on their own schedule without working around onerous after-hours inspections procedures, providing them the opportunity to streamline operations.

United States apple growers play a large role in the economic development and food security of our nation, and this exemption will allow them to continue their contribution to America's agricultural prowess and economic recovery

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator