

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 27, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing today to follow up on our conversation during the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting of the Presidential Export Council, regarding apple exports from the United States to Canada and the burdensome process apple farmers undergo to have their produce sold to the Canadian market. I would like to work together to exempt bulk shipments of apples to Canada from double inspection. This farmer friendly, streamlining practice would eliminate the unnecessary American inspection and its burdensome fee, to help expand this market for our apple producers.

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. If we also eliminate apples from this outdated law, then we can allow apple growers to distribute their products on their own schedule without working around costly after-hours inspection procedures, providing farmers the opportunity to save money and streamline operations.

Last year, more than 1.5 million bushels of New York apples were exported to Canada. At about 1,000 bushels per truck and 1,500 trucks exporting apples to Canada annually, this amounts to a savings of about \$450,000 for New York apple exporters. Exempting exports to Canada from this outdated method of double inspections would speed up this process for more than 500,000 bushels of apples that are exported from New York to countries other than Canada annually.

I look forward to working together on this farmer friendly, trade friendly initiative to support family farms in New York and across the country.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senate

Cc: U.S. Secretary Tom Vilsack