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4TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2204

September 9, 2010

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The Honorable Ron Kirk  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

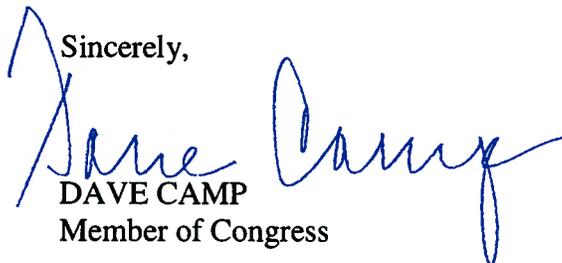
I am writing to seek your assistance on a trade issue of great interest to my district and the State of Michigan. As you may know, Asian carp, a non-native and invasive species of fish, has infested many U.S. waterways and is now threatening the Great Lakes. I am committed to finding every avenue to address the hazards that Asian carp present to the health of our lakes and rivers.

One manner of addressing the threat is to develop and expand the market for carp abroad. Indeed, processed carp is already a popular food item in several countries, including Israel. We have exported considerable amounts of this product to that market. However, that situation has recently changed. Specifically, although Israel had not been assessing duty on this product, it changed its policy in December 2009 and began charging duties, increasing the cost of the processed product by 15 to 20 percent. Although Israel later determined to suspend that duty on one container for every container paying duty, the remaining duty has caused a significant reduction in U.S. exports.

Accordingly, I request that you find a way to restore duty-free status for carp. Liberalizing trade in this product benefits both countries – providing U.S. fishermen and processors with an important market while offering the Israeli people a more affordable delicacy. Furthermore, more broadly we urge you to stand firm in achieving free trade with Israel on agriculture trade.

I very much appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,



DAVE CAMP  
Member of Congress