

**SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**  
SECOND DISTRICT, GEORGIA



**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION/VA

AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2429 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002  
PHONE: (202) 225-3631  
FAX: (202) 225-2203

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

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2013

DISTRICT OFFICES:

**ALBANY**

235 ROOSEVELT AVENUE  
ALBANY TOWERS, SUITE 114  
ALBANY, GA 31701  
PHONE: (229) 439-8067  
FAX: (229) 436-2099

**COLUMBUS**

18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201  
COLUMBUS, GA 31901  
PHONE: (706) 320-9477  
FAX: (706) 320-9479

**MACON**

682 CHERRY STREET, SUITE 302  
MACON, GA 31201  
PHONE: (478) 803-2631  
FAX: (478) 803-2637

The Honorable Michael Froman  
United State Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As the Member of Congress representing the largest pecan-producing Congressional District in the United States, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a major problem facing American pecan growers with respect to trade with India.

There is a disturbing discrepancy between import tariff rates which have been applied by India to various tree nuts. Other U.S. tree nuts, such as almonds and pistachios, enter India at a tariff rate of 10 percent or less, while U.S. pecans face a tariff rate of 36.26 percent. U.S. growers have visited India, met with potential buyers and participated in trade shows, yet they continue to find the current tariff rate a major barrier to U.S. pecans entering India. The industry believes that the potential for U.S. pecan exports to India compare to our current pecan exports to China which totaled over 22,000 tons in 2011. With an annual growth rate in GDP of 8.5 percent and a rising middle class, India represents to the pecan industry a very large potential market.

As you may be aware, pecans are the only native tree nut grown in the United States and are produced commercially in 15 states. Approximately 80% of the world's pecan production is located in the United States. U.S. growers produced 125,000 tons of pecans in 2011, with almost half the U.S. market exported to other countries. Our pecan growers have successfully used the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market Access Program to expand exports, especially to China, which is currently the largest foreign market for U.S. pecans.

As part of the upcoming discussions with India's Prime Minister, I would be grateful for your efforts to urge India to lower their import tariff rates on U.S. pecans. With lower rates, India could be as important of a market for U.S. pecans as China.

With warmest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress