

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

His Excellency Cui Tiankai
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
2201 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ambassador Cui:

We write to you today to join our Senate colleagues in expressing our deep concern regarding the impact of a notice issued on March 31, 2020, by China's Ministry of Commerce, General Administration of Customs, and National Medical Products Association (NMPA), which imposes new requirements on COVID-19 testing kits, ventilators and other medical supplies manufactured in China for export. While we understand the goal of preventing the export of low-quality products, these broad restrictions, unfortunately, appear to have the unintended consequence of inhibiting critical, high-quality medical products from reaching the United States in a timely manner.

Like many countries around the world, we are seeing an unprecedented public health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States have fallen ill and more than 31,000 have died.¹ As the virus continues to spread, our states are struggling with shortages of testing kits, personal protective equipment, and other medical supplies necessary to respond to this emergency. These shortages are hampering efforts to contain the virus and placing healthcare workers and their patients at risk.

Under these circumstances, suppliers of essential medical products must be able to quickly deploy these products to areas in need. We appreciate the intent behind the March 31 notification, which requires exporters of certain medical products to comply not only with quality standards and other requirements of the importing country or region, including U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval or clearance to export to the United States, but also with NMPA registration for domestic sale in China. As we understand it, the notice was aimed at combating quality concerns related to products originating from China. While we support efforts to ensure the safety and efficacy of these products, we are concerned that this new requirement is preventing the timely export of important medical supplies. We are aware of several reputable American firms, including developers of COVID-19 tests, that have been forced to halt shipments of critical medical products from China to the United States because of this new notification.

With this in mind, we respectfully ask that the Chinese government work with the U.S. State Department and other U.S. agencies to quickly develop a more targeted approach to its new export requirements that does not needlessly prevent quality medical products from quickly

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

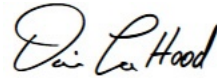
reaching the United States. Specifically, we urge China to exempt products that may be lawfully distributed in the United States from the NMPA registration requirement, automatically allow these products to receive the NMPA certification, or considerably expedite the review process for these products in a manner that reflects the ongoing emergency.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent request, and we hope that this matter can be resolved as expeditiously as possible so that healthcare workers and patients in our states can receive the medical supplies they urgently need.

Sincerely,



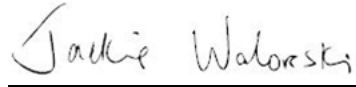
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



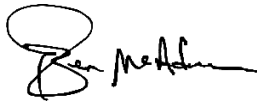
Jackie Walorski
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Mikie Sherrill
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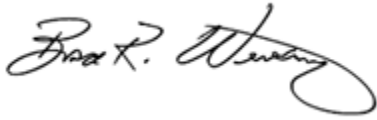
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State