



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0523**

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ambassador Lighthizer:

I am writing in support of Mrs. Barbara Grimm-Marshall's nomination to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables (ATAC-F/V).

Barbara is co-owner and serves on the Board of Directors of Bakersfield-based Grimmway Enterprises, Inc. One of its subsidiaries, Grimmway Farms, is the world's largest grower, packer, and shipper of fresh, processed, and frozen carrots. In fact, as Grimmway Farms produces roughly half of all the baby or petite carrots sold in the United States, if you have ever eaten these carrots, it is likely they were grown in Kern County or the Central Valley and processed by Grimmway Farms. Another subsidiary of Grimmway Enterprises is Cal-Organic, which is one of the largest organic farming operations in the country. Cal-Organic grows a variety of organic produce, including carrots, leafy greens and lettuces, root vegetables, herbs, onions, and brassicas.

Starting off as a small roadside stand in Anaheim, California, in the 1960s, Grimmway Farms relocated to Kern County, the heart of agriculture in California, and grew into one of the largest private employers in the community with operations across the country. A large part of this success and growth has been based on Grimmway Enterprise's ability, under the Grimm family's leadership, to identify, cultivate, and sell products to international customers.

Based on Barbara's involvement helping lead one of the largest agricultural operations in California and the United States, which is successfully engaging in complex international trade, I believe that her membership on the ATAC-F/V would be an asset. If appointed to this Advisory Committee, I am certain the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of the United States Trade Representative would be able to leverage Barbara's experience and know-how to help advance the Trump Administration's trade priorities, such as opening new foreign markets and expanding access in existing foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products. In addition, according to the most recent California Agricultural Statistics Review, 85.3% of all carrots

exported from the United States are from California. Barbara would also bring valuable insight to the ATAC-F/V, which I understand may not currently have a representative from the carrot industry serving on it.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KEVIN McCARTHY  
House Republican Leader