

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Ambassador Greer,

As Members of Congress who represent many family run sheep farms and ranches, we write to thank you and President Trump for your efforts to level the playing field to protect Americans against the unfair practices of our competitors. The families who run America's 88,000 sheep farms and ranches—a population which continues to dwindle year after year—are a prime example of the harm caused by unfair foreign imports hurting domestic industry. This industry has long been plagued by trade barriers, skyrocketing labor costs, and regulatory burdens, but the current Administration's America First trade policy has been the one bright light on the horizon.

Given the surge in lamb imports that hurt the livelihoods of our ranching communities, we strongly support the recent petition requesting that the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) ask the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) to initiate a global safeguard investigative case into imports of lamb meat as authorized under Sections 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Our foreign competitors, particularly Australia and New Zealand, have consistently taken advantage of our relaxed barriers and used them to undercut and infiltrate the U.S. lamb market. They have abused imports and suffocated our sheep producers for far too long. The analysis and data submitted as part of the industry's petition strongly supports the finding that lamb meat is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to cause serious injury to the domestic lamb meat industry.

Over the last five years, lamb meat imports have increased by nearly 45-percent, surging from 213.6 million pounds in 2020 to 309.3 million in 2024. This increased flood of imports resulted in lost sales and revenues for American producers who were already struggling, and their market share plummeted by more than 9-percent over that same timeframe. By 2024, imports accounted for 70-percent of the domestic market.

America has a vested interest in maintaining our sheep industry, but without action these family run farms and ranches will no longer be viable. We know this Administration shares the priorities of supporting ranchers, promoting Made in America, and combatting foreign takeover of the domestic market. We strongly urge USTR to request that the USITC initiate a global safeguard investigation into the practices and resulting harm caused by foreign competitors and the massive quantities of imported lamb meat.

Sincerely,