

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 23, 2020

Hon. Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, NW, Room 215
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

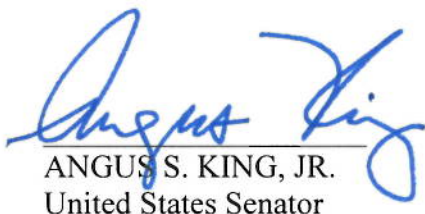
We were pleased that the President's January 15 Economic and Trade Agreement included seafood purchases by China, and appreciate your efforts to explicitly list lobster as a product in that category. As you and your team have come to recognize through our correspondence over the last two years, the Maine lobster industry is absolutely integral to the economy of our state. To promote Chinese accountability and to aid in the enforcement of this provision, we write to urge you to make public additional details on China's lobster purchase commitment, including the specific dollar value of China's commitment.

As you well know, China has a history of not upholding its trade agreements, and China has repeatedly broken its commitments under bilateral and multi-lateral agreements that it concluded as it acceded to the World Trade Organization ("WTO"). Indeed, these broken promises comprise the very basis upon which the President has rested his Chinese trade policy.

Given China's poor history of compliance with its trade obligations, the United States must hold China accountable to the purchase commitments it made under the January 15 Agreement. Knowing the exact dollar value of lobster that China has agreed to purchase will enable independent verification as to whether China either has met or has yet again shirked its trade commitments to the United States.

Transparency and accountability are paramount concerns and we look forward to working with you to hold China accountable for the purchase commitments under the January 15 Economic and Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,


ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator


SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress