



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 30, 2009

His Excellency
Chen Deming
Minister of Commerce
of the People's Republic of China
Beijing

Dear Mr. Minister:

It was a pleasure to meet with you earlier this week to discuss our mutual interests and the opportunities we share, and I look forward to our continued discussions on trade issues. As we both noted, we welcome frank exchanges. In that vein, a particular issue has come to my attention.

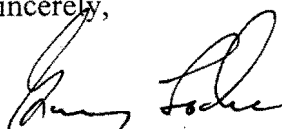
I am concerned about your government's recently imposed import restrictions on American pork products. I assure you that my family, like families across this country, continues to eat American pork. We have no reservations about its safety.

Indeed, both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States have stated that it is safe to eat properly prepared pork and pork products. The CDC has said categorically that the H1N1 virus is not transmitted by food. There have been no reports of the new H1N1 human influenza occurring in swine in the United States.

I strongly urge the People's Republic of China to remove these restrictions. Government actions during this time of economic uncertainty and international concern about influenza must be based on scientific evidence. There should be no restrictions on trade without cause.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary Locke

