

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2012

The Honorable Dino Patti Djalal
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador Djalal:


As co-chairs of the Congressional Indonesia Caucus, we write to express our deep concerns with the Indonesian regulations that will close a number of entry points, including the critically important Tanjung Priok port of Jakarta, to imports of agricultural products. With over 90 percent of U.S. fruit entering Indonesia through the Tanjung Priok port, the regulations, if implemented, will have a disastrous impact on U.S. agricultural exports, particularly from the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

We are similarly concerned about the new Trade and Agriculture Ministry regulations that would impose extremely onerous new import licensing, labeling, and approval requirements on horticultural imports. It is clear that these new requirements will substantially increase the obstacles to trade with Indonesia.

As you know, agricultural trade is a foundational element of the U.S.-Indonesia trading relationship. In fact, high-quality agricultural products – and fruit, in particular – are a primary U.S. export to Indonesia, accounting for \$2.8 billion in 2011. And, Indonesia is a top-ten market for U.S. agriculture. Trade barriers that undermine this important relationship, and that do not appear to serve any legitimate public health or safety concern, serve neither country's interests.

We hope that we can work with you to resolve this matter and look forward to being in close touch on it.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT
Co-Chair, Congressional Indonesia Caucus
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade
House Ways and Means Committee



DAN BURTON
Co-Chair, Congressional Indonesia Caucus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia
House Committee on Foreign Affairs