

# SWEETENER USERS ASSOCIATION

ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW • SUITE 800 • WASHINGTON, DC 20001 • (202) 842-2345 • (202) 408-7763 FAX

---

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch & Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the Sweetener Users Association, I write to respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer for the post of United States Trade Representative (USTR). Ambassador Lighthizer's decades-long involvement in major trade policy issues make him eminently qualified to serve in this critical role.

SUA members are directly affected by trade policies in many ways, notably through the operation of U.S. sugar policy, including tariff rate quotas (TRQs) which involve obligations to some 40 different countries, as well as Free Trade Agreements with a number of countries that also provide limited market access for sugar from these countries. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the lead agency in establishing TRQ levels on an annual basis, USTR has many important responsibilities in this area as well, including the allocation of TRQs among eligible countries.

SUA believes that USTR must retain its historic leadership role in trade policy, and that a strong and knowledgeable leader is indispensable in this regard. Ambassador Lighthizer's experience in the legislative and executive branches of government as well as in private practice have given him the perspective and vision needed to assume the economic, political and diplomatic responsibilities of U.S. Trade Representative.

We hope your committee will move expeditiously to the favorable consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Emily Russell  
Chairwoman