

Peterson Announces Ag Subcommittee Ranking Members

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin C. Peterson, D-Minn., announced Jan. 28, 2015, the Democratic Ranking Members and Subcommittee membership for the House Agriculture Committee's six subcommittees. Peterson will serve as an

ex-officio member of all subcommittees. **Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture**

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing and

promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

- Ranking Member Jim Costa (CA-16)
- Stacey Plaskett (VI-AL)
- Filemon Vela (TX-34)

● Rick Nolan (MN-8)

● Cherie Bustos (IL-17)

Subcommittee on Nutrition

Jurisdiction: Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives.

- Ranking Member Jim McGovern (MA-2)
- Marcia Fudge (OH-11)
- Alma Adams (NC-12)
- Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1)
- Pete Aguilar (CA-31)
- Stacey Plaskett (VI-AL)
- Brad Ashford (NE-2)
- Suzan DelBene (WA-1)

Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts and ornamentals, bees, and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management, bioterrorism, adulteration and quarantine matters, research,

Cattlemen urge renewal of Trade Promotion Authority

As trade negotiators met again the last week of January, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association was urging for renewal of Trade Promotion Authority, legislation that gives the president authority to negotiate trade agreements with an assurance that Congress will give the final agreement only an up or down vote.

More than 12 million American jobs depend on exports, and with the renewal of TPA, valuable free-trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) can move forward. NCBA President and Texas cattle producer Bob McCan said under TPP, the U.S. beef industry could see the elimination of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers that hinder the industry's ability to meet free-market demand for beef in the Pacific Rim.

"The governments of many of our competitors are actively engaged in negotiating trade agreements with growing consumer markets around the world," said McCan. "Unless the United States takes a similar aggressive approach to secure free-trade agreements, we will lose market share, not due to the quality of our products, but because our products will be more expensive due to import tariffs. While the final terms of the agreement are still far from conclusion, TPP could give the United

education and extension; and biotechnology.

- Ranking Member Suzan DelBene (WA-1)
- Marcia Fudge (OH-11)
- Jim McGovern (MA-2)
- Ann Kuster (NH-2)
- Gwen Graham (FL-2)

Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat and wool; including the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statutes, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues. Oversight: Departmental, agency, and office oversight and investigations with respect to the mission areas of the Risk Management Agency and applicable operations of the Farm Service Agency.

- Ranking Member Tim Walz (MN-1)
- Cherie Bustos (IL-17)
- Gwen Graham (FL-2)
- Brad Ashford (NE-2)
- David Scott (GA-13)

- Jim Costa (CA-16)
- Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)
- Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)

Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit

Jurisdiction: Policies, statutes and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

- Ranking Member David Scott (GA-13)

- Filemon Vela (TX-34)
- Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)
- Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)
- Pete Aguilar (CA-31)

Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry

Jurisdiction: Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

- Ranking Member Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1)
- Ann Kuster (NH-2)
- Rick Nolan (MN-8)
- Suzan DelBene (WA-1)
- Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)

Source: House Agriculture Committee Democrats.



States a stronger foothold in the growing Asian and Pacific Rim markets.”

The multi-lateral TPP agreement is currently being negotiated by the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, Canada and Mexico. NCBA encourages the United States to push for full and free market access to all TPP member countries, eliminating high tariff rates and quotas that currently limit the United States’ ability to compete for consumers.

McCan warned, however, that just as important as trade agreements are to the domestic economy, ongoing West Coast port labor negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association have caused a significant disruption to the transport of goods and are threatening the success and continuity of trade with international markets.

“In the face of free-trade agreements that provide jobs and foster economic growth, we cannot have our products sitting on ships at dock or in trucks waiting to be loaded,” said McCan. “Supply chains across several industries have been adversely impacted due to events far beyond our control, and with perishable items like beef, this is especially concerning. These labor disputes must be settled as soon as possible to resolve the current congestion issues interrupting the flow of commerce.”