



From: "Ricker, Monique T. EOP/USTR" <Monique_T_Ricker@ustr.eop.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 1:16 PM
To: FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>, FN-USTR-FOIA <FN-USTR-FOIA@ustr.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act (MULTI-20-2296-2300)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Mr. Wood,

This email is the final response of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) No. FY20-152 submitted on September 18, 2020 requesting all email communications with the potential to shed light on the administration's approach to negotiating agricultural trade deals with China from June 28, 2019 to January 15, 2020.

In response to your request, we searched the sent items of Robert Lighthizer, former Chief of Staff Jamieson Greer, CJ Mahoney, Gregg Doud and Terrence McCartin for communications containing at least one term from column A and one from column B. Attached please find four responsive pages of records which we are releasing in part. We withheld non-public contact information because we reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by FOIA Exemption 6, which protects personal information the release of which would not shed light on the performance of the agency's statutory duties.

This constitutes a complete response to your request. You may contact me or my colleague Janice Kaye by email at FOIA@ustr.eop.gov or 202-395-3419 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may also administratively appeal by writing to: FOIA Office, GSD/RDF; ATTN: Janice Kaye, Anacostia Naval Annex, Bldg. 410/Door 123, 250 Murray Lane, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20509.

Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked: "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and should include a reference to the FOIA Case File number listed above. Heightened security in force may delay mail delivery; therefore we suggest that you also email any such appeal to foia@ustr.eop.gov.

In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where we searched for the records you requested.

Thank you,
Monique

Monique T. Ricker
FOIA Program Manager/Attorney

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON DC 20508

Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: MOFCOM announcement - China TRQ release to private sector

From: gregory.f.doud@ustr.eop.gov
To: "Bomer Lauritsen, Sharon E. EOP/USTR" <sharon_e_bomerlauritsen@ustr.eop.gov>
Date: Wed, 07 Aug 2019 15:20:58 -0400

Appears it could be a step in the right direction.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2019, at 12:52 PM, Bomer Lauritsen, Sharon E. EOP/USTR <Sharon_E_BomerLauritsen@ustr.eop.gov> wrote:

We have the document and staff is reviewing.

From: Doud, Gregory F. EOP/USTR <Gregory.F.Doud@ustr.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Bomer Lauritsen, Sharon E. EOP/USTR <Sharon_E_BomerLauritsen@ustr.eop.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: MOFCOM announcement - China TRQ release to private sector

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Vince Peterson <Exemption 6 [@uswheat.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@uswheat.org)>
Date: August 7, 2019 at 11:20:03 AM CDT
To: "Doud, Gregory F. EOP/USTR" <Gregory.F.Doud@ustr.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: MOFCOM announcement - China TRQ release to private sector

Naturally you will have seen this already. Could be more games being played that you have to deal with.

Vince Peterson
President
U.S. Wheat Associates

• Phone: Exemption 6
Exemption 6 [uswheat.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@uswheat.org)

From: Vince Peterson
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:16 PM

To: Jeff Coey [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#); Matt Weimar [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
Cc: Steve Mercer [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
Subject: RE: MOFCOM announcement

Thanks ... I'm trying to wade thru that now as well. This would be perfect negotiating strategy by China ... implement the TRQ allocation while the US is under heavy import tariff restrictions. You'll potentially have Can, Aust, Arg, Russia and maybe even France all urged/incentivized to sell wheat to China while the US sits on the sidelines. Wouldn't that be an ideal present for the Chinese to give Trump's eventual Dem political opponent going into the election?

But if the world could get another 9.6 MMT of stocks off the export market this year – that has some natural benefits even to those of us sitting in the cheap seats.

Vince Peterson
President
U.S. Wheat Associates
Phone: [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
[Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)

From: Jeff Coey [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Vince Peterson [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#); Matt Weimar [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
Subject: FW: MOFCOM announcement

Vince and Matt,

Obviously some potential here for major impact.

As you can see I've asked our team to read it closely and to suggest ideas on how the industry might respond.

Also interesting is how our board might respond if, in fact, we see 2020 state-held TRQ re-allocated to end users while a punitive tariff on US origins remains in place.

I've yet to discuss with Shirley, but will forward any additional opinions as they become known.

Thanks,
Jeff

From: Jeff Coey
Sent: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 10:58 PM
To: 'Bryan Lohmar' [Exemption 6 grains.org.cn](#); Kim, Gene X (Beijing) [Exemption 6 @fas.usda.gov](#); Daniel Chan [Exemption 6 orcon.com](#)
Cc: Ward, Michael J (Beijing) [Exemption 6 @fas.usda.gov](#); Richey, Bobby (Beijing) [Exemption 6 @state.gov](#); Shirley Lu [Exemption 6 uswheat.org](#)
Subject: RE: MOFCOM announcement

Gene,

Hello from Illinois. I will be back in the HK office Monday.

I agree with Bryan that this could be a big deal if implemented. Our primary constraint to more wheat imports is the un-used TRQ for wheat that lies idle in state hands most every year.

I've asked our team to think about how we might help promulgate these proposed changes to the industry so as to encourage a positive response before the comment period ends August 22.

Thank you for forwarding. Will advise further opinions upon closer examination.

Jeff

From: Kim, Gene X (Beijing) [Exemption 6]@fas.usda.gov>
Sent: 2019年8月7日 16:58
To: Bryan Lohmar [Exemption 6]grains.org.cn>; Jeff Coey [Exemption 6]uswheat.org>; Daniel Chan [Exemption 6]orcon.com>
Cc: Ward, Michael J (Beijing) [Exemption 6]@fas.usda.gov>; Richey, Bobby (Beijing) [Exemption 6]@state.gov>
Subject: MOFCOM announcement

Hi Bryan, Jeff, and Daniel,

I hope that this message finds you well.

For your awareness, today, MOFCOM published a Draft Amendment to the "Interim Measures for the Administration of Import Tariff Quotas for Agricultural Products" for public comment. The comment period closes on August 22, 2019.

<http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/as/201908/20190802888064.shtml>

Please see attached an Unofficial Translation of the Notice and the Draft Amendment.

Please share any thoughts which you have about this document. I am open to exchanging ideas at a later date.

Regards,

Gene Kim
金真
Agricultural Attaché
Office of Agricultural Affairs
USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Embassy in Beijing
Tel: [Exemption 6]

Official

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