

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 27, 2020

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>TH</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We want to thank you for your continued actions in support of Florida's floral industry. We understand that this October USTR will consider adding fresh cut roses to the list of products eligible for preferential treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and we wholeheartedly support you doing so.

No industry is escaping the disruption this pandemic has caused, however, one of our industries, floral importers, has been burdened by an onerous and unnecessary 6.8% duty on imported cut roses. This has resulted in importers paying approximately \$15 million in duties annually on those roses (\$100 million since they went into effect). That tariff protects no domestic producers of any consequence: less than 2% of the roses consumed in the U.S. are grown here.

According to the Association of Floral Importers of Florida (AFIF), imported flowers help support over 6,000 jobs in South Florida and more than 200,000 jobs throughout the United States, including cargo airlines, sea shipping companies, freight forwarders, importers, truck lines, custom brokers, warehouses, wholesale florists, retail florists, supermarkets, mass markets, event planners and others. Beyond that, approximately 90% of the flowers that come into the US come through Miami International Airport, Port Miami, and Port Everglades in South Florida.

As is clear, adding fresh cut roses to the list of GSP-eligible products will help catalyze Florida's economic recovery from the pandemic with limited to no impact on U.S. flower growers writ large. We are determined to explore every avenue to help Floridians recover from the disastrous effects of the pandemic.

With these considerations in mind, we respectfully request, within all applicable rules and regulations, for your full and fair consideration of adding fresh cut roses to the list of GSP-eligible products.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



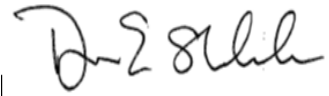
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