

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

June 19, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) review the data used that excluded walnuts from Category 1 of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

USDA used Market News Terminal Market Data in excluding walnuts from Category 1. However, Terminal Market data is not representative of the actual walnut market. 60% of California walnuts are the Chandler variety, and this variety was not included in the data USDA used to evaluate the price change for walnuts. The data USDA used tracks only three items, which are mostly the Hartley variety. This is not a representative look at the walnut market as that variety is just 4.5% of walnut production.

Data from the walnut industry on the impacts of COVID-19 on the market for the January to April period and for April through the remainder of the marketing year shows a loss of at least \$.10/lb. to the grower during the January to April period with further expected losses for the remainder of the year of \$.05-\$.10/lb. Grower pricing for the 2019-2020 crop year was anticipated to be \$1.00-\$1.10/lb., but with these declines, prices are now expected to drop to \$.80-.90/lb., which is well above the 5% decline needed to qualify for Category 1.

This pricing decline will result in estimated grower losses of nearly \$300 million. Based on that data, walnut producers should be included in Category 1 to assist with ongoing market challenges.

We ask that you consider the data submitted by walnut producers and reconsider their eligibility for Category 1.

Sincerely,



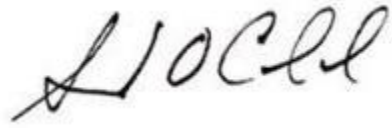
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
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Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
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