

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2005

The Honorable Dr. David Tawei Lee
Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative
Republic of China (Taiwan)
4201 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Representative Lee:

We write to request your assistance in immediately reopening Taiwan's market to apple imports from the United States.

The decision by Taiwan to close its market to U.S. apple imports on December 20, 2004, is causing extensive financial harm to apple growers in the Pacific Northwest. It is estimated that the market closure has cost growers at least \$25 million in lost sales. Every day that this market remains closed increases the losses for growers and deprives Taiwan's consumers of our states' apples.

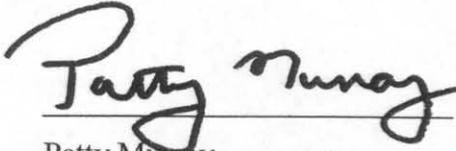
Taiwan is a valued trading partner. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of U.S. apple shipments to Taiwan. After all these years, and more than 6 billion individual apples shipped, Taiwan does not have codling moth. Either U.S. methods of shipping apples mitigate the risk to levels below quarantine concern or codling moth cannot survive in Taiwan, or both.

It is very concerning that this issue has not been resolved in four months. As a member of the World Trade Organization, Taiwan is required to take into account the objective of minimizing negative trade effects when determining the appropriate level of phytosanitary protection. In addition, it must ensure that such measures are not more trade-restrictive than required to achieve an appropriate level of phytosanitary protection, taking into account technical and economic feasibility.

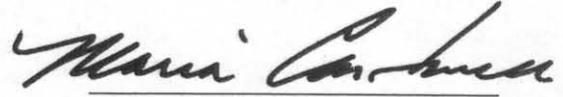
It is our understanding that the U.S. government and industry have agreed to, and implemented, the work plan changes Taiwan has required. There appears to be no justification for further delaying reopening Taiwan's market to U.S. apple imports. We therefore would appreciate a speedy and a successful resolution to this unfortunate interruption of trade between our two countries.

Thank you for your consideration.

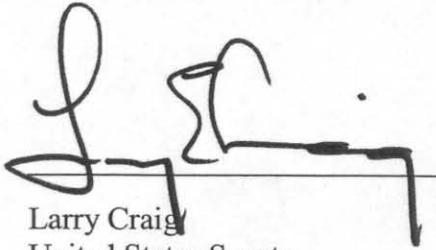
Sincerely,



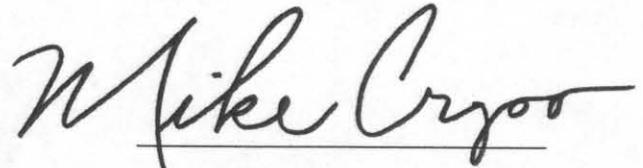
Patty Murray
United States Senate



Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



Larry Craig
United States Senate



Mike Crapo
United States Senate



Gordon Smith
United States Senate

cc: Secretary Mike Johanns, USDA
Ambassador Peter Allgeier, USTR