



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 6, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

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

Dear Ambassador Greer and Secretary Rollins:

As the representative for North Carolina's First Congressional District, I write to convey the urgent concerns of flue-cured tobacco farmers regarding the loss of access to international markets and the need for equitable relief as trade negotiations continue. Tobacco remains a cornerstone of eastern North Carolina's economy, and the First Congressional District produces more than any other congressional district nationwide. Crop production and sales sustain our farm families across eastern North Carolina.

For decades, China has been the single largest buyer of U.S. flue-cured tobacco, purchasing between 60–65 million pounds annually. Currently, Chinese buyers have withdrawn from the market, leaving nearly 60 million pounds of unsold tobacco and threatening a loss of over \$220 million in export value. For many families in my congressional district, this crisis could mean the difference between staying on the farm and leaving agriculture altogether.

During prior trade disruptions, relief programs largely focused on row crops, while specialty crops such as flue-cured tobacco, even though they suffered equal harm, were excluded. Eastern North Carolina cannot afford a repeat of that oversight.

As the administration considers relief for producers harmed by the current tariff environment, I urge you to ensure that tobacco growers are not left behind. To accomplish this, I encourage you to work with Congress to provide the necessary authority so that flue-cured tobacco farmers may receive fair treatment when international trade disputes cause sudden, external shocks to their livelihoods.

Our farmers produce a high-quality, traceable product that is recognized worldwide. They deserve the same consideration as other agricultural producers when international markets are disrupted by trade disputes.

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I look forward to working with you to secure fair treatment for North Carolina farmers and to preserve the economic health of rural communities across NC-01.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress