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June 29, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

I write to strongly urge you to explore new markets for American lobster exports to compensate for the impact of China's imminent 25% tariffs on imported American lobsters. These tariffs will do serious harm to Massachusetts families that work in the lobster industry.

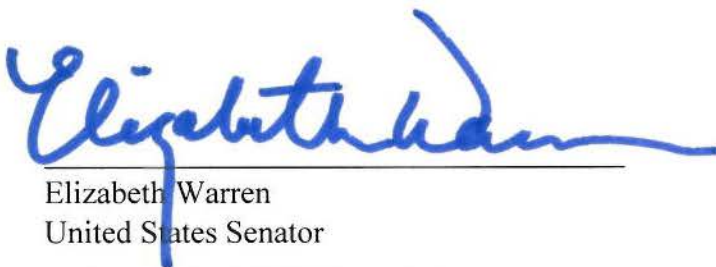
As you know, in response to American tariffs on certain Chinese goods, China has proposed a set of tariffs that would go into effect in July. Among these tariffs is a 25% tariff on American lobster.¹

China is a large and growing market for lobsters, with total lobster imports from America topping \$100 million in recent years.² Large Chinese tariffs on American lobster will effectively close off that market because China can substitute cheaper lobsters from Canada or Europe for American lobsters.³

If China imposes these tariffs in response to the Trump Administration's tariffs, it will have a devastating impact on the Massachusetts lobstermen whose businesses rely on exports to China. I urge you to work with the lobster industry to find alternative markets for American lobster to replace the loss of the Chinese market – and I stand ready to help in your effort in any way I can.

I ask that you respond to this letter by July 13, 2018.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

¹ New York Times, "Lobsters, Small-Batch Whiskey, and Trump's Trade War," Alan Rappeport, June 22, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/22/us/politics/donald-trump-tariffs-trade-war.html>.

² CNBC, "Lobster-crazy China sets record for US crustacean imports, March 20, 2017, <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/20/lobster-crazy-china-sets-record-for-us-crustacean-imports.html>.

³ Gloucester Times, Editorial, "Our view: Tariffs have outsized effect on small businesses," June 21, 2018, http://www.gloucestertimes.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-tariffs-have-outsized-effect-on-small-business/article_48fd1574-2f3e-57b5-a7ee-332c8fd36f37.html.