



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 3, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the retaliatory tariffs that China is putting in place on imports of U.S. seafood, including lobster. This is one component of China's response to the United States' investigation of China's unfair policies and practices relating to technology transfer and intellectual property under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

I understand your concerns about the serious impact that these unwarranted Chinese tariffs will have on the many Massachusetts families that work in the lobster industry. It is critical that China change its policies and practices. However, we are in an ambitious process to begin trade agreement talks with countries in Africa and South East Asia. Further, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign Commercial Service can also help the lobster industry find alternative markets for American lobster.

The Administration remains committed to rebalancing the U.S.-China trade relationship to achieve more fair and reciprocal trade and to create new and expanded opportunities for U.S. farmers, ranchers, fishermen, manufacturers, service suppliers and workers. To that end, we will continue to use all available tools to pressure China to reject mercantilism and to embrace open, market-oriented trade and investment policies. The unfair policies and practices that China pursues in areas like technology transfer and intellectual property severely harm U.S. businesses, contribute to our bilateral trade deficit with China, threaten our national security and long-term competitiveness, and divert American jobs to workers in China.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns. I am committed to working with you on our shared goals in U.S. trade policy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. E. Lighthizer".

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative