

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2020

Cynthia Wilson
Chairperson
Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

RE: Section 484(f) Request for Changes to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States

Dear Ms. Wilson:

We are requesting the Committee for Statistical Annotation of the Tariff Schedules (“484(f) Committee”) refine the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) to collect additional information on dried cherry imports by creating new statistical breakouts for imports of (1) dried tart cherries and (2) all other varieties of dried cherries. We propose that the statistical breakout complement the same information the United States collects at the 10-digit level in Schedule B, relating to exports of dried cherries. This additional information will help our domestic industry better understand the economic impacts of dried cherry imports.

Michigan grows more than 75 percent of the nation’s tart cherries with a crop valued at over \$54 million. The economic impacts of this industry affects more than just growers. It also supports hundreds of processing and retail jobs and brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to northwest Michigan each year. Unfortunately, the domestic cherry industry has suffered in recent years due to unfair import competition and uncertainty in export markets.

As you may know, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) recently completed an antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) investigation (Inv. No. 701-TA-622 and 731-TA-1448) into imports of dried tart cherries from Turkey. In their report, the USITC determined that there were too many “out of scope” items within the HTS code for dried cherries for that data to be considered as part of their investigation.

It is only fair that if we are collecting additional statistical information regarding the types of dried cherries exported from the United States, then we should provide the same level of data collection for imports. Additional statistical breakouts in the HTS, like what is required in Schedule B, would allow for better monitoring imports of dried cherries. We believe the current level of statistical data is not sufficient to understand the trade flows within the dried cherry varieties. This information will allow the domestic industry to analyze trade flows and volume trends of these imports more meaningfully.

Dried cherry imports are currently classified in HTS 0813.40.3000. The current HTS breakout is as follows:

- 0813:** Fruit, dried other than that of headings 0801 to 0806; mixtures of nuts or dried fruits of this chapter
- 0813.40:** Other fruit
- 0813.40.3000:** Cherries

Meanwhile, Schedule B requires additional statistical granularity that we are requesting be collected for the HTS at the 10-digit level. The Schedule B breakout is as follows:

- 0813.40.3010:** Cherries, Tart Varieties, Dried
- 0813.40.3090:** Cherries, Dried, Except Tart Varieties

The supplemental information provided in this letter shows that the volume of trade meets the threshold of more than \$1 million annually. Further, because the recent AD/CVD case considered at the USITC involved questionnaire responses from at least eleven U.S. importers, we can determine there are more than three importers of dried tart cherries in the United States, meeting the necessary threshold. We are attaching information to assist you and the 484(f) Committee as you consider our request to create new statistical breakouts for dried cherry imports. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

ATTACHMENT 1

Download Date	March 12, 2020, 9:56 AM
Step 1: Trade Flow and Classification System	
Trade Flow	Imports For Consumption
Classification System	HTS Items
Step 2: Data and Years	
Data To Report	Customs Value
Data Format	1
Years	2018
Timeframe Aggregation	Annual
Step 3: Countries	
Select Type	Use All Countries
Country Aggregation	Aggregate countries
Step 4: Commodities	
Select Type	Select Individual Commodities
Commodity List	0813403000
Commodity Aggregation Level	10
Commodity Aggregation	Aggregate Commodities
Description Display	NO
Step 5: Programs	
Select Type	Use All Programs
Import Program Aggregation	Aggregate CSC
Step 6: Rate Provision Codes	
Select Type	Use All Provision Codes
Provision Code Aggregation	Aggregate RPCODE
Step 7: Districts	
Select Type	Use All Districts
District Aggregation	Aggregate District
Step 8: Report Layout	
Column Order	
Column Sort Order	
Percent Change Column	Checked
Show All	Checked
Enable Subtotals	Unchecked

Imports For Consumption | Annual Data

Data Row Count		1	
	Data Type	TOTAL	Year 2018
Customs Value		TOTAL	2,732,520
Total:			2,732,520

Download Date	March 12, 2020, 9:54 AM
Step 1: Trade Flow and Classification System	
Trade Flow	Imports For Consumption
Classification System	HTS Items
Step 2: Data and Years	
Data To Report	Customs Value
Data Format	1
Years	2019
Timeframe Aggregation	Annual
Step 3: Countries	
Select Type	Use All Countries
Country Aggregation	Aggregate countries
Step 4: Commodities	
Select Type	Select Individual Commodities
Commodity List	0813403000
Commodity Aggregation Level	10
Commodity Aggregation	Aggregate Commodities
Description Display	NO
Step 5: Programs	
Select Type	Use All Programs
Import Program Aggregation	Aggregate CSC
Step 6: Rate Provision Codes	
Select Type	Use All Provision Codes
Provision Code Aggregation	Aggregate RPCODE
Step 7: Districts	
Select Type	Use All Districts
District Aggregation	Aggregate District
Step 8: Report Layout	
Column Order	
Column Sort Order	
Percent Change Column	Checked
Show All	Checked
Enable Subtotals	Unchecked

Imports For Consumption | Annual Data

Data Row Count		1	
	Data Type	TOTAL	Year 2019
Customs Value		TOTAL	2,061,411
Total:			2,061,411