

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
London SW1A 2DY

29 September 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

First, we wish to congratulate you on your new role, and we look forward to supporting your department to do everything it can to maintain the UK's high environmental and animal welfare standards while growing green trade.

As organisations committed to placing high food, environmental and animal welfare standards at the heart of free and fair trade, it is encouraging to see that during the 2018 trade bill debate you noted that the UK should "demand the same standards of farmers in other countries as we do of our own..." and that "[w]e must have a level playing field" to ensure British food and farming standards are not undercut. It is also heartening to see that you highlighted the importance of using "the strength of our large market to help other countries to achieve high standards in food production and animal and environmental welfare".

Ahead of further negotiations with India and CPTPP countries, we hope that you will embed the principle of a level playing field into your approach. The recent lifting of tariffs and quotas without any equivalence on animal welfare or environmental standards for Australian producers means that UK farmers will now compete with imported food produced to standards that would be illegal in the UK, exacerbating concerns that the deal exports our carbon footprint, increasing transport emissions and the risk of deforestation overseas.

Major UK retailers, the first Trade and Agriculture Commission, the Climate Change Committee, the National Food Strategy, and the International Trade, Environment Food and Rural Affairs and International Agreements Committees have all supported calls to develop a set of core standards or minimum product standards. These would ensure imports do not undermine domestic standards and show international leadership by raising the bar in food, environment and animal welfare standards. Importantly, it has been shown that these standards can be designed in ways that avoid blocking progress on future trade deals and are widely supported by voters.^{1,2}

We sincerely hope that as trade secretary you will look to work across government and develop a set of world leading core standards that guide new UK trade deals. We look forward to supporting you in this important work.

Yours sincerely,

¹ WWF, [Core Environmental Standards](#), January 2022

² Unchecked UK, [A view from the Blue Wall](#), May 2022

Shaun Spiers, Executive Director, Green Alliance and Chair, Greener UK

Minette Batters, President, NFU

Chris Sherwood, Chief Executive, RSPCA

Philip Lymbery, Global Chief Executive, Compassion in World Farming

Kath Dalmeny, CEO, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming

Ruth Bergan, Director, Trade Justice Movement

Tanya Steele, Chief Executive, WWF

Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive, Food, Farming & Countryside Commission

Martin Lines, UK Chair, Nature Friendly Farming Network

Mark Tufnell, President, CLA

George Dunn, Chief Executive, Tenant Farmers Association

Cc: Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs