

VOICE OF THE DRY PEA AND LENTIL INDUSTRY

The following organizations sponsor and support this statement. Thus joined, these six organizations speak for 100 per cent of the United States dry pea and lentil industry.

Washington Association of Dry Pea and Lentil Producers, Inc.
Idaho Association of Pea and Lentil Producers, Inc.
Washington Dry Pea and Lentil Commission.
Idaho Pea and Lentil Commission.
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council.
Pacific Northwest Pea Growers and Dealers Association, Inc.

IMPORTANCE OF THESE COMMODITIES TO WASHINGTON AND IDAHO

More than 5000 producers and 40 companies are involved in the growing, processing and selling of U.S. dry peas and lentils. Additionally, railroads, trucking firms, dock facilities and steamship companies also have a stake in the well-being of the industry, as they play an important role in movement of product from producer to ultimate consumer. At the country level these commodities are rated as having a gross value of between 25-30 million dollars. Processing, shipping and handling would increase this amount substantially. These commodities are significant additions to the agricultural well-being of both Idaho and Washington.

IMPORTANCE OF EXPORTS TO THIS INDUSTRY

The key to success of this industry lies in exports. More than 65 per cent of all the dry peas and over 80 per cent of all the lentils produced in the United States are sold overseas. All sales are commercially made for dollars. Dry peas and lentils are a worthy plus factor in the U.S. balance of trade picture, and will continue to remain so unless buying countries are forced to initiate retaliatory measures to cope with the advent of new trade restrictions imposed by this country.

AMERICAN MUSHROOM INSTITUTE,
Kennett Square, Pa., June 26, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MILLS: The American Mushroom Institute, representing mushroom growers and processors in the United States, urges you to favorably consider H.R. 16936—titled the Fair International Trade Act of 1968.

Canned mushroom imports over the past six years have increased steadily to such a degree that now we feel the present domestic market is at its saturation point. This past season mushroom prices to the grower were at a low ebb and many are being forced to cease their growing operations. This undue increase of foreign canned mushrooms has and will continue to mutilate our price structure unless something is done about it. The per capita consumption of mushrooms in the U.S. (less than 1 lb.) has not increased sufficiently enough to warrant such an influx of this foreign product.

We urge you and your Committee to look favorably upon H.R. 16936 and offer small industries such as the Mushroom Industry in the U.S., a chance to survive.

Respectfully yours,

RONALD B. HUNTE,
Executive Director.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., July 1, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR MILLS,
*Chairman, Ways and Means Committee,
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The current hearings on tariff and trade proposals are producing much valuable information on the complex relationships between our country and other trading nations.

I would like to call to the Committee's attention and make part of the official record a paper from the West Mexico Vegetable Distributors Association head-