



Retail Council of Canada
1881 Yonge Street, Suite 800
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RetailCouncil.org

June 21, 2015

International Trade Policy Division (Agri-food Inputs)
Department of Finance
90 Elgin Street, 14th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5
fin.tariff-tarif.fin@canada.ca (email)
613-369-4024 (fax)

Via email

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Retail Council of Canada Supports the Elimination of Tariffs on Food Processing Inputs

The Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is pleased to submit the following comments on the “Invitation to submit views on proposed Most-Favoured-Nation tariff (MFN) elimination on certain agri-food processing inputs” that was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I on April 23, 2016.

RCC and its members are extremely supportive of the elimination of MFN rates of customs duty on the agri-food processing inputs that are listed in Table 1 of the Canada Gazette proposal. The elimination of tariffs on these goods follows commitments made in Budget 2016. They will help improve the competitiveness of the Canadian food processing sector and, ultimately, help reduce the cost of food for Canadian families.

We continue to work with our members to identify additional tariff lines for potential elimination and will submit them for your consideration by June 30, 2016.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Jason McLinton
Senior Director, Federal Government Relations

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About RCC

Retail is Canada's largest employer with over 2 million Canadians working in our industry. In 2015, the sector generated payroll over \$59 billion and \$340 billion in sales (excluding vehicles and gasoline). RCC members represent more than two-thirds of retail sales in the country. RCC is a not-for-profit industry-funded association and represents small, medium and large retail business in every community across the country. As the Voice of Retail in Canada, we proudly represent more than 45,000 storefronts in all retail formats, including department, grocery, specialty, discount, independent retailers and online merchants.

RCC grocery members represent over 90% of the market in Canada. They provide essential services and are an important source of employment in large and small communities across the country. They have strong private label programs and sell products in every food category.