

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2014

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As co-founders of the newly-formed and bipartisan Congressional Cut Flower Caucus, we support American Grown flowers and value the significant economic benefits that the industry delivers. We join with America's family flower farmers – many of whom we represent – in thanking you for featuring beautiful American-grown flowers at the State Dinner for Francois Hollande of France earlier this year. We encourage you to make similar efforts to highlight American flowers at White House events in the future, taking advantage of the wide variety of flowers grown in all 50 states.

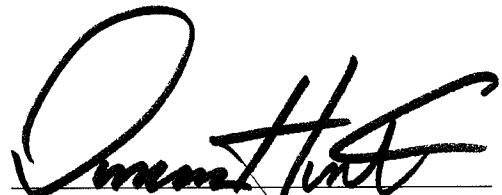
We firmly believe that highlighting American Grown flowers at White House events is consistent with longstanding policy. As you know, it has been official White House policy since President Lyndon Johnson's Administration to highlight American wines. This effort helped dispel the old perception that American wines were inferior to those in Europe. A more formalized effort to highlight American Grown flowers would both complement and supplement these important programs.

Complementing your efforts at the State Dinner, the Cut Flower Caucus will help support American cut flower farmers on Capitol Hill by educating Members of Congress and staff about the cultural and economic impact of our domestic cut flower farmers, the challenges they face, and their innovative efforts to stay competitive, such as the new American Grown labeling effort.

We join America's family flower farmers in expressing our gratitude for your work to highlight their products and ask that you continue these efforts by using American flowers for future White House celebrations and events. Thank you for your consideration, and please let us know if we can be of assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,


LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress


DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress


JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress

CC: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack