



**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION**

Montana Farm Bureau Federation
502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104
Bozeman, MT 59718

Shri Piyush Goyal
Leader of the House
Minister of Commerce and Industry and
Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Government of India
New Delhi-India

November 3, 2021

Dear Minister Goyal:

It is an honor to send you greetings from farmers and ranchers in the state of Montana! We greatly appreciate the opportunity to highlight the high-quality food products we carefully raise in our state. We hope to find a pathway that will continue to open trade between our countries, benefiting our farmers and your consumers equally.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in our state and our farmers raise a wide variety of commodities, including pulse crops. Montana's climate and soil types are well suited for growing peas, lentils, and chickpeas and our production has grown significantly in recent years. In fact, the acreage planted to those three crops doubled from 2013 to 2016, and in 2020, almost a million acres were planted. This means that our farmers are poised to supply consumers in your nation with a reliable, affordable, and high-quality supply of nutritious commodities and food products. We are well positioned to deliver these crops to your shores. As a state with only slightly more than one million people, but millions of acres of productive crop and rangeland, our infrastructure is strong and well developed, providing established and reliable export pathways to the entire world. Reducing tariffs and other barriers to trade will ensure that the commodities raised on farms here in Montana can become affordable, delicious, and nutritious food on the plates of consumers there in India.

Montana farmers adhere to the safest and most sustainable farming practices in the production of crops that we raise for our families, families throughout the United States, and for the rest of the world. We look forward to an opportunity to further develop our trade relationship and deliver more crops from our farmers to your families.

Respectfully,

Hans McPherson
President