

VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON
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CHAIR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
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MEMBER OF THE
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U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice Davids
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May 9, 2022

The Honorable Jason E. Kearns
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

*Re: Certain Plant-Derived Recombinant Human Serum Albumins (“rHSA”) and Products
Containing Same, Inv. No. 337-TA-1238*

Dear Chairman Kearns and Commissioners,

I respectfully submit these comments to the U.S. International Trade Commission in regard to the remedies sought by Complainant Ventria Bioscience, Inc. in the above-referenced proceeding. Ventria, based in my home state of Kansas, has raised concerns about certain plant-derived recombinant human serum albumins (rHSA) and potentially unfair competition under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930. I hope that you give their complaint full and fair consideration.

I understand that Ventria has invested tens of millions of dollars to develop and commercialize its recombinant protein technology. Ventria’s platform enables the production of mammalian proteins at a commercial scale, without the use of blood or animal-origin components. Ventria has built this business through its entirely U.S.-based activities, which include research and development, laboratory work, rice breeding, farming, and manufacturing its proprietary rHSA products.

In the past, Ventria has faced unfair competition from China, with one instance resulting in a criminal prosecution of researchers who stole the company’s proprietary rice seeds. In this instant case, I understand that there is concern that section 337 may have been violated by a foreign company’s alleged importing and selling of rHSA products that may infringe one of Ventria’s U.S. patents.

It is critical to protect innovative American companies from unfair foreign competition, particularly in relation to potential theft of intellectual property in sensitive sectors such as biotechnology. Thank you for considering this submission. Please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress