

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
The Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to you today with deep concerns regarding the proposed deal that this administration has struck with China for American soybean purchases.

After an entire year of eroding market access for American soybeans, the administration touted a minimum of 12 million metric tons of sales to China by the end of 2025 as success. This represents only 44.7 percent of 2024's soybean exports to China and is already woefully short of what our growers need. Now, this administration is further stringing along our hardworking growers by backpedaling on previous deadlines for China to meet its purchases. Not to mention that China has yet to confirm any of the terms cited by the Administration or whether they will uphold their end of this deal. This is reportedly escalating uncertainty for U.S. grain producers.¹

During the first Trump administration, U.S. soybean exports to China fell from a record high 36 million metric tons to less than 9 million metric tons.² Despite some growth over the last several years, the U.S. has not been able to fully recover the market share of Chinese imports we lost to Brazil. The October 30 announcement³ that China will purchase 12 million metric tons by the end of this year is hardly satisfactory for farmers already feeling the squeeze from high input costs and low crop prices. Additionally, the announcement of 25 million metric tons of purchases from China in future years beginning in 2026 is on par with what they would have purchased before this administration waged a trade war with them. This means that, after wreaking havoc on the farm economy, the deal announced from the administration only concludes with a return to status quo — farmers are smart enough to know better.

China has yet to purchase what the administration and you personally have promised to farmers. As of December 12, the last known purchase,⁴ China has purchased 29 percent of the total announced commitment. If China was on pace to meet the 12 million metric tons of sales by the end of this year as the administration originally claimed, that number should be well over 50 percent. Even with the new announcement for February, purchases are still behind where they should be.

According to Treasury Secretary Bessent, the deadline for the 12 million tons of purchases is being pushed back to the end of February 2026.⁵ What we have heard from our farmers, time and time again, is that they need certainty and honesty. The consistent inability of this administration to provide that certainty to farmers is astounding, and their willingness to move the goalposts to placate Chinese interests ahead of U.S. interests does

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/three-vessels-bound-us-gulf-coast-terminals-load-soybeans-sorghum-china-2025-11-24/>

² <https://apnews.com/article/bessent-china-trump-soybeans-8e318b06345d4392804c5c93a96e81b5>

³ *Ibid*

⁴ <https://www.fas.usda.gov/newsroom/export-sales-china-83>

⁵ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-12-04/bessent-says-china-in-a-perfect-cadence-to-meet-soy-target>

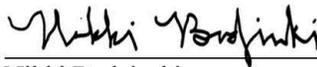
not help farmers' bottom lines. As we work to serve farmers and ranchers across the country, we request that you please provide the following answers/information no later than December 19, 2025.

1. Why did the administration say the purchases of 12 million metric tons of soybeans by China would be done this year if that wasn't definitive? Does this change constitute a violation by China of their agreement with the President?
2. With some soybean 2025 purchases being pushed into 2026, will that reduce the separate Chinese soybean purchases in 2026 or will those 2025 planned purchases be added to the agreed upon level of 25 million metric tons to be purchased in 2026?
3. A detailed explanation of how you expect China to meet its commitment by February 2026.
4. What will be the consequences of China failing to meet the purchases by the new February 2026 deadline? Or, will the administration move the goalposts again?
5. Please provide a detailed explanation of how you expect China to meet its commitment by February 2026.
6. Please explain whether the changes in this deal will have any bearing on the upcoming farm relief package from the administration.
7. What is the value lost to soybean growers by delays in purchases this year?
8. How can the U.S. recover lost market share in China in future years?

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



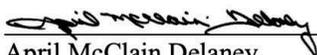
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



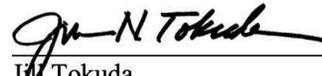
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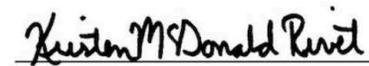
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