

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Julie Callahan  
Chief Agricultural Negotiator  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Luke Lindberg  
Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ambassador Callahan and Mr. Lindberg:

America's farmers are facing the worst economic crisis since the 1980s. Inputs are up, prices are down, markets have been decimated and America's reputation as a reliable trade partner has been destroyed. Amidst this cloud of economic instability, producers need trade certainty. Thanks to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), negotiated by the president during his first term, America's farmers have been able to largely turn to our allies to the north and south as reliable markets for our goods. Canada and Mexico have served as ports in the storm during these difficult economic times. However, by not renewing USMCA, the president and his administration are threatening one of his legacy achievements, and the last source of trade certainty our farmers have.

Over the past 18 months, this administration has destroyed our reputation and our trade relationships. The president and the administration are jeopardizing USMCA, and with it, they are pushing the farm economy to the brink. USMCA provides markets and opportunities for U.S. agriculture, contributing to increased exports, stability and jobs. Since USMCA was enacted in 2020, Mexico and Canada have collectively scaled up imports of U.S. agricultural goods by \$20 billion, totaling [\\$60 billion](#) in 2024. Economic models show that in 2024 alone, agricultural and seafood exports to Canada and Mexico generated [\\$149 billion](#) in total economic contribution to the U.S. economy, supporting nearly half a million American jobs and generating \$36 billion in wages.

Unfortunately, the president has made it clear that American jobs and the cost of living are not this administration's priority. In the past month he has said that he "loves inflation" and doesn't "think about Americans' financial situation." While the president may have enriched himself and his family enough to be unconcerned with everyday Americans, we have not. This committee understands the importance of North American trade and how dependent our farmers are on continuing USMCA.

In the light of the significance of USMCA for U.S. agriculture, this committee conducted a June 10, 2026, hearing on "Agricultural Perspectives on the Future of USMCA." Witnesses across U.S. agricultural industries testified on the importance of USMCA for their operations.

Though they represented disparate parts of the agricultural economy, their message was consistent and clear: USMCA is vital to their success and must be renewed. This message was repeated by witnesses, Republicans and Democrats.

- **Dairy Farmers of America:** “USMCA remains the most commercially significant trade agreement for the U.S. dairy industry. Mexico and Canada collectively account for over 40 percent of all U.S. dairy exports by value.”
- **Weyerhaeuser Company:** “Free trade agreements—both bilateral and regional, like the USMCA—are increasingly important tools to expand U.S. exports of forest products, from sawlogs to pellets to biofuels.”
- **Western Growers:** “At a time of unprecedented trade uncertainty in markets around the world, losing this agreement and the longstanding zero-tariff access for U.S. product into our top two export markets would be a severe blow to our members’ livelihoods.”
- **American Soybean Association:** “It is nearly impossible to overstate the importance of maintaining free, open, rules-based, and fair trade within the North American continent for U.S. agriculture. Soybean farmers are facing the most challenging landscape in a generation. Failure to renew USMCA would be catastrophic.”
- **The Meat Institute:** “USMCA has been essential to the American meat, poultry, and livestock sector’s unparalleled position within North America. Preserving the agreement is critical to the U.S. farm economy’s future growth.”
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce:** “The USMCA is vital to U.S. agriculture and agribusiness—and to North America’s ability to continue meeting regional and global demand for food—because it preserves critical market access for U.S. farmers and food producers, supports innovation, and strengthens investment across highly integrated, cross-border supply chains.”
- **Chairman Glen “GT” Thompson (R-PA-15):** “The USMCA has been a highly effective at expanding regional trade, pushing commerce—obviously ag and beyond—near \$2 trillion annually, and making Mexico and Canada the United States’ top trading partners with significant gains in agriculture. USMCA has really served as a model, I think, trade agreement.”
- **Ranking Member Angie Craig (D-MN-2):** “[USMCA] is vital for American farmers, ranchers, foresters and businesses ... Mexico and Canada remain our top agricultural trade partners. Our relationship with these allies puts money in the pockets of family farmers and creates and supports jobs up and down the food supply chain.”
- **Former Chair Frank Lucas (R-OK-3):** “The USMCA expanded market access for U.S. agriculture, including for products and animal byproducts that do not hold the same level of demand in domestic markets.”
- **Vice Ranking Member Shontel Brown (D-OH-11):** “We have heard from the chairman, Republicans, Democrats, and every one of our witnesses on the value of USMCA for opening up markets for U.S. producers, and, unbelievably, this has happened at the exact same time that the president went on TV and said that he may not renew it. You cannot make this stuff up. American businesses cannot thrive in a vacuum. Whether you are a farmer growing crops or a trucker hauling livestock across a border for processing, stable friendships with our neighbors and stable markets are good business. Chaos, tariffs, and war, and tweets, not so much.”

We are deeply concerned by President Trump’s decision not to renew USMCA and move towards ten years of annual review. President Trump has said, “We don’t need anything that Canada has. We don’t need anything that Mexico has.” American farmers and families disagree. Congress must be informed on how the administration reached this conclusion and how the

administration plans to replace the export opportunities that will be lost without the certainty of a USMCA renewal.

Given Congress' constitutional authority over foreign trade, and the importance of USMCA for U.S. agriculture, the lack of communication from the U.S. Trade Representative to the House Agriculture Committee has been unacceptable. Members of this committee directly contacted the administration concerning USMCA on February 19, 2026, and still have not received a response. Congress is the branch constitutionally authorized to regulate commerce with foreign nations—this committee should not be kept in the dark on the status of USMCA. Accordingly, we request that you, Ambassador Callahan and Under Secretary Lindberg, brief the House Committee on Agriculture on the state of future negotiations regarding USMCA. Specifically, we ask that you share with this committee how you are advancing U.S. agricultural interests with two of our top agricultural trading partners. We look forward to hearing directly how you are preserving the immense benefits to U.S. agriculture conveyed by USMCA.

Sincerely,



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Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture



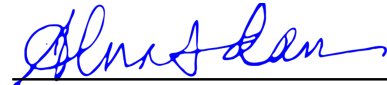
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Shontel M. Brown  
Vice Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture



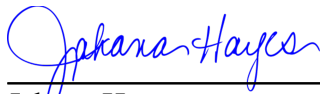
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



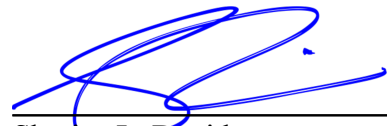
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



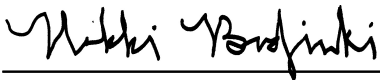
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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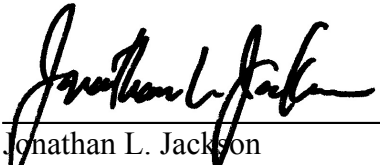
Jim Tokuda  
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Nikki Budzinski  
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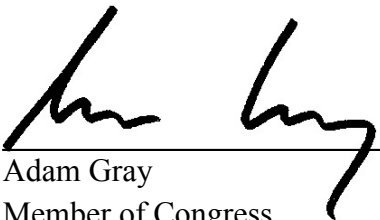
Eric Sorensen  
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



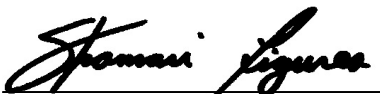
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



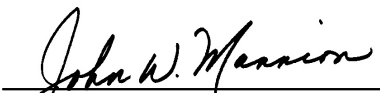
Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



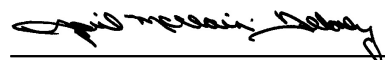
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