

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20509

Dear Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack:

We write today to express our concern and alarm with the Government of Mexico's decision to ban the importation of biotech corn, along with other agricultural biotechnology products. Mexico's actions are a clear violation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and we urge you to commence a formal dispute settlement action without delay.

Mexico's impending ban will cause substantial harm to Missouri corn farmers and create a ripple effect throughout Missouri's rural economy. Reliable and stable market access is critical to the success of Missouri corn farmers. According to the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri's corn exports totaled \$443 million in 2021, making corn Missouri's second largest agricultural export. On average, Missouri produces 560.9 million bushels of corn every year.¹ Given that more than 90 percent of corn grown in the U.S. utilizes biotechnology, the impact of Mexico's actions on farmers in Missouri and throughout the U.S. rural economy will be severe. In the 2021/2022 marketing year alone, the U.S. exported \$4.92 billion of corn, over 15 million metric tons, to Mexico alone.² If Mexico's actions are not challenged, farmers in Missouri and across the country will feel long-lasting economic repercussions.

Furthermore, enforcing and upholding the integrity of USMCA is essential for all of Missouri's agricultural export markets. Aggressively enforcing USMCA will send a clear signal to all trading partners that baseless trade barriers that limit the innovative tools and technology U.S. farmers rely on to sustainably produce food will not be tolerated. The science is clear—biotechnology is safe. These tools are critical to achieving environmental goals, securing our supply chains, growing Missouri's economy, and improving food security and sustainability around the world.

For these reasons, we are asking for immediate action and for you to commence a formal dispute settlement action without delay.

As members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, we stand in strong support of our Missouri corn farmers and stand ready to partner with you to protect Missouri farmers' access to agricultural commodity export markets in Mexico and around the world.


¹ Missouri Department of Agriculture statistics. <https://agriculture.mo.gov/topcommodities.php>

² United States Department of Agriculture statistics <https://www.fas.usda.gov/regions/mexico>

Sincerely,



MARK ALFORD
Member of Congress



JOSH HAWLEY
United States Senator



ERIC SCHMITT
United States Senator



SAM GRAVES
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



JASON SMITH
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



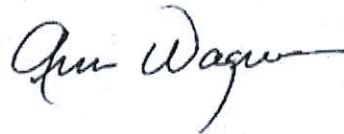
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



ERIC BURLISON
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress