

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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

December 1, 2022

Dear Ambassador Tai,

We write to express concern regarding Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's intentions to ban genetically modified corn imports by 2024. This is in direct contradiction with the Mexican Government's commitments within the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This policy will have a significant adverse impact on Nebraska, which produced 1.83 billion bushels of corn, and exported roughly 403.4 million bushels in 2021 alone.

Over 90 percent of the corn produced in Nebraska is genetically modified, and Nebraska producers export around \$350 million of corn to Mexico each year. This market is therefore vital to ensuring our state's economy is strong and stable. Losing this key foreign trade partner would also cost the American economy \$73.89 billion and approximately 32,000 jobs would be lost.<sup>1</sup> In addition to losing a key driver of economic growth, these genetically modified seeds developed and planned in the United States allow farmers to minimize inputs and maximize soil health.

With so much of the nation's economy resting on this issue, President López Obrador's announced policies cannot even be considered an option. Setting aside the significant barrier to productivity, and sustainability, such a change would take many years for American producers to adapt and resume normal trade relations. The treasure and livelihoods of the American corn producer are at stake.

We also encourage you to consider the implications of this ban in light of the war in Ukraine and its impact on the global agricultural economy. We urge you to allow American farmers to do what they do best: feed the world.

The commitments made in the USMCA include the requirement that measures be backed by relevant scientific data<sup>2</sup> and risk assessments.<sup>3</sup> President López Obrador's announced policies do not meet up to these commitments and the Mexican government has shown no sign of adhering to the USMCA.

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<sup>1</sup> World Perspectives. "Consumer Price Impacts of Mexican Restrictions on GM Corn: An Economic Analysis."

<sup>2</sup> USMCA, Article 9.6.6.

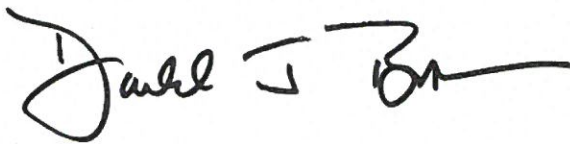
<sup>3</sup> USMCA, Article 9.6.3, 9.6.7, & 9.6.8.

Clear and decisive action is needed from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Given the scale of this infraction, we call upon you to invoke Article 31.4 of USMCA, initiating dispute settlement consultations.

This issue has hung over the heads of producers for far too long. USTR must take concrete steps to prevent this catastrophic policy from bankrupting American producers and dissolving 32,000 American jobs.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue. Please feel free to direct any further questions, comments, or concerns to our offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Bacon". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Bacon (NE-02)  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adrian Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Adrian Smith (NE-03)  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Flood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Mike Flood (NE-01)  
Member of Congress