

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The heartland remains a symbol of America's resilience, its strength rooted in those who feed our nation and the world. Illinois' crops are globally recognized for their exceptional quality and reliability. Unfortunately, American producers are enduring the unintended consequences of uncertainty driven by the current domestic and global economic landscape. Without immediate action to end the trade war with China, the Illinois and US farm economy will suffer irreparable harm. As trade talks take shape in the coming months, including your upcoming meeting with President Xi Jinping, we urge you to secure beneficial agreements for both traditional and emerging markets for American agriculture.

Illinois farmers need help now. Despite farm safety net provisions passed by Congress earlier this year, most farmers will not see those benefits until harvest of 2026. Currently, producers continue to face higher production costs, lower crop prices, and diminishing domestic and global markets.¹ These circumstances have increased financial hardships for farmers who are already operating on very thin or negative margins. Alarming, farm bankruptcies have already surpassed 2024 levels in the first quarter of this year with additional filings expected to rise throughout 2025.²

Maintaining and strengthening trade through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is vital to ensuring predictable, profitable markets for America's farmers. Illinois corn alone generated about \$1.5 billion in exports to Mexico last season, and Canada remains the largest market for US ethanol.³ As upcoming talks for review approach, we urge a renewed focus on establishing enforceable trade frameworks that promote certainty, stronger integrated supply chains, and lower costs for essential agriculture inputs.

With Illinois being one of the top producing states for soybeans, we urge you come to the table with their biggest customer—China. Historically China has imported more American soybeans than all other countries combined.⁴ In the 2022-2023 season, American farmers produced \$60.7 billion worth of soybeans, exporting more than half to China.⁵ Since announcing tariffs impacting China, the country has not purchased a single bushel of US soybeans, pivoting instead to exporters like Argentina and Brazil—undermining US market share. Producers in Illinois and around the country are panicking because they cannot withstand a drawn-out trade war with their largest buyer. Without a renewed trade agreement, farmers face devastating losses. In light of these circumstances, American soybeans must be part of the discussion during your upcoming meeting with President Xi Jinping in South Korea later this month, and hope those conversations move forward as planned.⁶ Our

¹ ["Declining Farm Economy Continues to Pressure Profitability."](#) American Farm Bureau Federation, 6 Oct. 2025.

² ["Losing the Chinese Market Is a Contributing Factor to the Rise of Farm Bankruptcies Filed This Year."](#) RFD-TV, 3 Oct. 2025.

³ Personal correspondence. Illinois Corn Growers Association. 17 Oct 2025.

⁴ ["US Soybeans Exports in 2024"](#) USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, 17 Oct 2025.

⁵ ["Trump plans aid package for US soybean farmers while seeking trade deal with China."](#) AP News, 5 Oct 2025

⁶ ["Korea moves to arrange Trump, Xi state visits on sidelines of APEC meeting."](#) The Korea Times, 16 Oct 2025.

producers do not want to be in the position of having to ask for financial assistance, but they do need a bridge as you work to reopen and improve market opportunities.

While building global markets takes time, investing in domestic demand delivers immediate benefits for the farm economy. Prioritizing substantial funding for local food programs for schools, foodbanks, and federal procurement; as well as ensuring year-round access to renewable fuels nationwide are tangible solutions. These proven initiatives not only generate local revenue, but also provide stable, reliable markets for producers and agribusinesses here at home.

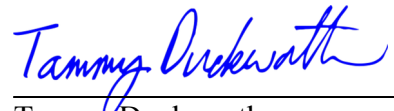
The future of American agriculture rests on our producer's ability to access and compete in markets at home and abroad. Our farmers take pride in their work, they want markets – not bailouts – but unfortunately, many now face pressures beyond their control. Therefore, we urge you to keep American farmers at the forefront as you engage in upcoming trade discussions to restore certainty and confidence in American agriculture.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



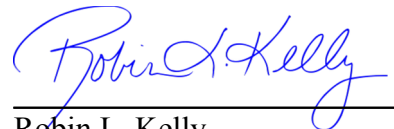
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



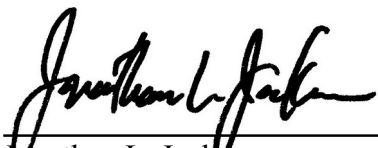
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



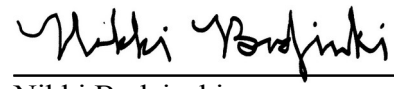
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator




Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



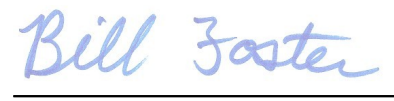
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



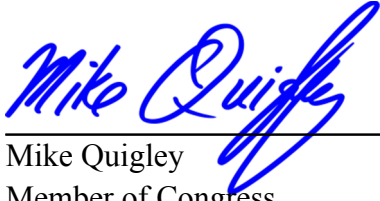
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



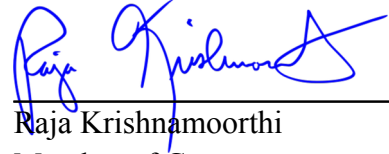
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary of the Commerce
The Honorable Scott Bessent, Secretary Department of the Treasury
Ambassador Jamison Greer, US Trade Representative