



November 21, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
H-222 US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I represent over 7500 members of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. I appreciate the hard work and bipartisan effort you have put into getting USMCA to this point with Trade Ambassador Lighthizer. However, USMCA is still a top priority to my membership. This year has been a trying year for Iowa farmers. Between weather impacts in the spring and fall, low market prices, trade wars, and the destruction of the Renewable Fuel Standard by the EPA, it has been a heavy burden on Iowa farmers. One certainty that I know of is that Mexico and Canada comprise the largest global market for the U.S. farm and food exports, valued at more than \$39 billion in 2017. Unfortunately, this certainty is on the brink of shattering unless Congress passes USMCA this year.

Agriculture exports from the U.S. have tripled to Canada and quintupled to Mexico since the passage of NAFTA. In fact, Mexico is the top buyer of U.S. corn and Canada tops the charts as the #2 buyer of U.S. ethanol. Beyond the farm gate, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that NAFTA supports 12 million U.S. jobs. The Iowa farmer cannot afford to lose these markets, and rural communities cannot afford to lose these jobs.

I ask that you continue to work with the Administration to find a path forward to bring USMCA promptly to a vote. Waiting until 2020 will only prolong the heavy burden being experienced in farm country when farmers need help right away. We have seen trade agreements become casualties to election years and the delay tactics of other interest groups. We want to avoid that fate for USMCA, which is a marked improvement over NAFTA. Our North American neighbors need stability, and future trading partners need confidence that the United States is a reliable trading partner. If you would like to hear from me directly please feel free to contact me at 319-521-7480. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Greif".

Jim Greif
President, Iowa Corn Growers Association

CC:

Representative Cindy Axne
Representative Abby Finkenauer

Representative Dave Loebsack
Representative Steve King