

COURTESY TRANSLATION**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Mexico City, April 26, 2025

Ms. Brooke Rollins
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
United States of America

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I received your letter dated today, in which you express your interest and commitment to our common campaign against the New World Screwworm (NWS), and in which you inform me of some concerns your government has regarding this matter.

Let me begin by reiterating that the Mexican government is fully committed to containing and eradicating NWS from my country and, furthermore, to contributing to our eradication of NWS from Central America. This is the only possible strategy to protect our ranchers and our population. It is also a way for Mexico to help protect American ranchers, because in order to prevent this pest from reaching your country, it is necessary to contain it in mine and then eradicate it.

The last time this insect appeared in our region, it took us almost 50 years to eradicate it beyond Panama. This time, we must do it in much less time, but there is no doubt that we will be working together for many years to come against this threat. That, Madam Secretary, will require collaboration, cooperation, and respectful dialogue.

Mexico took measures to be prepared to contain NWS near our border with Guatemala many months before we had the first case on our territory. This has allowed us to keep cases 2,500 km (1,500 miles) away from the Mexico-USA border. One hundred percent of bovine and other animals traveling from the South of my country to the North are intercepted, inspected, and treated preventively against NWS. The resources we have invested and will continue to invest, Madam Secretary, are significant. We do this out of our obligation to protect our livestock and our ranchers, but, let me reiterate, these measures also protect your livestock and your ranchers.

Furthermore, with the valuable collaboration of USDA and APHIS, we have begun dispersing sterile flies in the affected areas of Southern Mexico, and we have agreed with your government on a strategy to strengthen this campaign.

I now address your concerns regarding the situation of Dynamic Aviation, a company contracted by APHIS to participate in the campaign against NWS in Mexico.

First, in compliance with the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement (USMCA), which, as you may recall, was signed by President Donald J. Trump during his first administration, the law requires a U.S. airline to partner with a Mexican company if it wishes to operate within our country.

It wasn't until March 6 that Dynamic Aviation reached an agreement with a Mexican company to use its operating permit and license, and on March 11, the documentation that allows it to comply with the law was submitted to our aviation authority (AFAC).

Furthermore, during this process, we learned that Dynamic Aviation apparently does not have a permit from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to disperse live insects. To date, the company has not submitted this permit to the Mexican authorities, despite having committed to doing so, and despite APHIS and USDA representatives in Mexico telling us they will. However, due to our strong interest in Dynamic Aviation being able to begin operations as soon as possible, and in response to a request you made to me in a previous communication, we processed a special permit valid until May 9, the deadline by which the company committed to submit the FAA authorization for this type of operation.

In summary: since April 9, Dynamic Aviation has been authorized by the Mexican government to operate in the NWS campaign. Despite this, it was only 15 days later, on April 24, that three Dynamic Aviation aircraft arrived in Mexico, carrying spare parts, equipment, and consumables worth approximately \$400,000.

Dynamic Aviation gave no advance notice to any Mexican authorities, nor were we notified by APHIS, that these aircraft would arrive on that date and that they would be carrying that quantity of materials. As you understand, Madam Secretary, Mexican Customs gave these aircraft the normal legal treatment because we lacked prior information. Even so, when we were informed, we again took the necessary steps to resolve this matter within a few hours. All of this would have been avoided if the company, or APHIS, had had the courtesy to inform us in advance of these aircraft's arrival.

In short, Madam Secretary, we have provided exceptional facilities to this company and all those participating in the NWS campaign, and we will continue to do so. This has been done through the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, in close communication and collaboration with the Federal Civil Aviation Agency (AFAC). I also want to point out that sterile fly dispersal flights are currently being conducted without restrictions, and that all aircraft are in Mexican territory.

But I want to emphasize that it is necessary for Dynamic Aviation to provide the Mexican authorities with a copy of the document certifying that they are authorized by the FAA to

disperse live insects. As soon as the company submits this document, we will modify its temporary permit so that it can continue working in Mexico on our joint campaign for as long as necessary. If the company and APHIS wish the Mexican government to continue providing them with the necessary facilities, as it has up to now, in light of our shared interest in combating NWS, it would be advisable for them to inform us promptly of their requests so that we can be prepared to provide such support, always within the limits of the law, as we have done each time they have requested it. To this end, I have designated a high-level representative in our Secretariat, Dr. Gabriel Ayala Borunda, head of the General Directorate of Animal Health at SENASICA, to address, in a coordinated and direct manner with USDA-APHIS, any operational situation with the urgency required. I respectfully request that you designate a focal point to work with Dr. Ayala.

Madam Secretary,

Combating NWS is a common interest of both countries. We will be dedicated to it for many years to come. Mexico will always be willing to collaborate and coordinate with the United States in this task, but always within a framework of respect, as befits two friendly nations. Our success in Mexico will be the best insurance U.S. ranchers can have for remaining NWS-free. If we maintain a fruitful collaborative relationship, we will move forward with even stronger steps.

I hope that at our meeting on May 6, we can deepen our agreements to continue working together and achieving shared success on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julio Antonio Berdegué Sacristán
Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development