

August 16, 2017

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Canada

The Honorable Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal  
Secretary of Economy  
Av. Paseo de la Reforma # 296  
Torre Reforma Latino, Piso 27  
Colonia Juárez  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc C.P. 06600  
Mexico City  
MEXICO

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer, Minister Freeland and Secretary Guajardo:

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and the Consejo Nacional Agropecuario (CNA) are writing to express our eagerness to work with you on improving agricultural trade in the North American market by modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in ways that preserve and expand upon the gains already achieved.

We represent the farmers and ranchers of a diverse agriculture across three countries that provide agricultural goods and employment all along the value chain to ensure that Canadian, Mexican and U.S. consumers have access to

high-quality, safe and affordable food.

A key part of this success, as it is related to agricultural trade and commerce, comes from collaboration among the three countries. Together Canada, Mexico and the United States make up one of the most competitive and successful economic regions in the world. The success of this trading relationship has come largely from economic cooperation, integration and policy alignment.

In the 20 years since NAFTA was implemented, agricultural production has become increasingly efficient and innovative. The market integration provided by NAFTA has increased competitiveness in the face of a rapidly changing global economy.

While North American agricultural trade is now largely open, helping farmers and ranchers expand exports, each country may have specific issues it would like to see addressed. However, we should not allow these issues to undermine the overall success of our trading relationship. Because of these market access gains, the agricultural sectors in the North American region have become far more integrated and we look forward to working with you to improve trade within the North American marketplace.

Discussions to increase agricultural trade volumes should include the following:

1. Seeking increased and improved regulatory alignment
2. Improving the flow of goods at border crossings
3. Further alignment of sanitary and phytosanitary measures
4. Elimination of technical barriers to trade
5. Adapting the agreement to technological advances since the implementation, such as digital trade, etc.

Agriculture in each NAFTA country would suffer greatly from disruptions to the trading relationships that have developed over the last 23 years. With the productivity of agriculture growing faster than domestic demand, Canadian, Mexican and U.S. farmers and ranchers rely on export markets to sustain prices and revenues. CFA, AFBF and CNA are committed to preserving and expanding

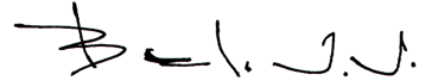
upon the gains our sector has achieved within the North American market and ensuring that a modernized NAFTA continues to be a success story for all farmers and ranchers.



Ron Bonnett,  
President  
Canadian Federation  
of Agriculture



Zippy Duvall,  
President  
American Farm  
Bureau Federation



Bosco de la Vega Valladolid,  
President  
Consejo Nacional  
Agropecuario