

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Bessent, Secretary Lutnick, Secretary Rollins, and USTR Greer,

We write on behalf of producers across our states, districts, and communities who are facing mounting challenges because of escalating trade tensions with China, who has historically been the largest buyer of U.S. grown soybeans. China has effectively halted purchases of U.S. soybeans, instead sourcing from our agricultural competitors. As you know, that shift is having devastating consequences for the U.S. farm economy. Prices have fallen below break-even, storage bins are overflowing, and the ripple effects are being felt across the biofuel, livestock feed, and processing sectors that depend on a stable soybean market.

Our producers don't expect Washington to guarantee their success, but they do expect a level playing field. Right now, retaliatory tariffs and unresolved trade frictions have priced U.S. soybeans out of the market, while competitors fill the gap. Producers are asking a simple but urgent question: what is the plan to reopen markets and provide certainty for the months and years ahead?

We've urged the Treasury Department to expedite clear and workable guidance on the Section 45Z clean fuel production credit so biofuel producers can invest with confidence. We've pressed the Environmental Protection Agency to maintain nationwide, year-round access to E15, which would strengthen domestic demand for soy and corn, lower fuel costs for consumers, and bolster rural economies. And we've raised soybean market access directly in conversations about ongoing U.S.–China trade negotiations.

Now, coordinated action is urgently needed across the administration. The United States should make soybean market access a central priority in trade discussions with China and work toward

the suspension or removal of retaliatory duties that are distorting global competition. At the same time, agencies should work together to identify and expand alternative markets for soybeans and soybean meal, remove unnecessary barriers to trade, and deploy the full suite of tools to help U.S. farmers remain competitive. Finalizing the 2026–2027 RVOs with strong volumes and the import-RIN proposal, along with implementing 45Z swiftly are all essential to providing market clarity, prioritizing U.S. feedstocks, and strengthening domestic demand. These efforts will build on the more than \$6 billion the U.S. soy crush industry has recently invested to expand new demand for soybean farmers here at home.

Finally, communication and transparency are essential. We've appreciated the openness of the Administration to meet with stakeholders and hear their concerns. However, we've reached a point where our producers need clear signals, not continued uncertainty, to make informed marketing and planting decisions. Regular updates on trade negotiations, export market development, and biofuel policy implementation would provide the confidence and clarity the agriculture sector needs to plan for the future.

The U.S. agriculture industry is among the most resilient in the world, but our farmers cannot be expected to absorb the shock of a prolonged trade dispute. They need a clear, coordinated strategy from their government that restores access to critical markets, strengthens domestic demand, and ensures that American agriculture remains the global standard for competitiveness and reliability. I urge you to take swift, decisive action to deliver that certainty.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Congress stands ready to work alongside the Administration and our industry partners across the supply chain to support America's soybean producers and rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zach Nunn".

Zach Nunn (IA-03)
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joni K. Ernst".

Joni K. Ernst (IA)
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick Van Orden".

Derrick Van Orden (WI-03)
United States Representative