

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2026

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

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

Dear Ambassador Greer and Secretary Rollins:

American agriculture relies on robust, fair trade. As you engage with trading partners around the world, we appreciate your focus on lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers and reducing regulatory obstacles to level the playing field for U.S. farmers and ranchers. We urge you to advance policies, both domestic and international, which support U.S. dominance in agricultural innovation.

New breeding technologies (NBTs), such as genome editing, can offer immediate, demonstrated benefits to U.S. agriculture production by inducing changes within a crop's DNA that could occur naturally or through traditional plant breeding. Through expedited cultivation of improved crop varieties, industry can deliver higher yields, reduce inputs, and increase farmer profitability. Regulatory alignment supporting new breeding technology is already emerging in key markets around the world, recognizing that NBT crops are as safe as conventionally bred crops. In fact, even the European Union and governments in other markets which have long been skeptical of biotechnology have embraced NBTs and either established or are pursuing regulatory pathways that would allow for the commercialization of NBT crops.

Unfortunately, significant regulatory barriers in key foreign markets, including Korea, Mexico, and China, risk chilling the ability of U.S. companies to commercialize crops developed with NBTs. Trading partners should establish clear, science-based regulatory exemptions for NBT crops, consistent with the United States and nearly all other established regulatory approaches worldwide; and should seek recognition of U.S.-approved NBT crops to facilitate trade. We appreciate the agricultural biotechnology language negotiated in the U.S.-Guatemala Agreement on Reciprocal Trade because it provides clarity for both NBTs and other agricultural biotechnology products. We strongly encourage you to secure further enforceable commitments from trading partners that provide legal certainty for U.S. companies bringing NBT-improved crops to market. Further reducing the need for duplicative foreign reviews strengthens the U.S. regulatory system, reduces trade risk, and incentivizes U.S. leadership in new technologies.

In addition, we urge you to safeguard U.S. intellectual property by ensuring that foreign regulatory requirements do not result in forced technology transfer. For example, China's requirement for in-country studies, even for applications intended solely for import for food, feed, and processing, puts U.S. intellectual property at risk. Moreover, the unequal regulatory treatment of U.S. and China-based developers creates an unfair disadvantage for U.S. innovators and delays farmers' ability to commercialize new technologies.

As you advance new trade agreements, we appreciate your continued effort to strengthen American agricultural trade and look forward to working with you and your teams to achieve tangible gains in these negotiations.

Sincerely,



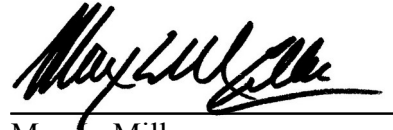
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



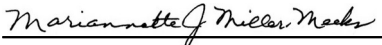
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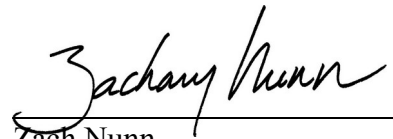
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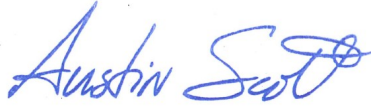
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