

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

The U.S. specialty crop industry encompasses a large variety of commodities across 220,000 farms, each with distinct supply and demand conditions. As you know, many American growers of fruit, vegetable, and certain tree nut commodities and products are under unsustainable pressure from growing volumes of products unfairly entering U.S. markets. These imports flood the U.S. market, often at the same time U.S. crops are reaching their peak in-season period, with prices at or below the cost of production for U.S. producers. Additionally, many of these commodities are seasonal and/or perishable, creating unique challenges for identifying markets as these products must be harvested, marketed, and consumed within a limited window of time. Other specialty crops that are marketed year-round are forced to suffer the consequences over the course of the entire year. As you review the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), we look forward to engaging with you to implement trade measures that will allow our specialty crop producers to continue to feed the nation and remain viable against unfair foreign competition. We urge you to consider the significant strain Mexico continues to place on the U.S. specialty crop industry.

Fresh fruit and vegetable imports from Mexico have increased by more than 550 percent since 2001, driven by fundamental cost and regulatory advantages.¹ Mexican producers operate with significantly lower labor and production expenses, where agricultural wages are about one-tenth of U.S. levels, while U.S. growers depend heavily on the higher-cost H-2A program for seasonal labor.² Because labor accounts for roughly half of total production and harvest expenses in this industry, these disparities create a substantial competitive gap.³ Mexican farms also cut corners by avoiding many of the regulatory requirements imposed by U.S. agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Labor, further reinforcing their cost of production advantage.

Without measures to restore competitive balance, specialty crop production will increasingly move to foreign countries. We urge you to evaluate trade actions that can safeguard U.S. growers from unfair pressures from Mexico. This work is essential to maintaining U.S. competitiveness in the specialty crop sector and ensuring Americans continue to have access to high-quality, domestically grown food, which is fundamental to our national security.

Many specialty crop organizations and representatives recently submitted comments to the Office of the United States Trade Representative for consideration under Docket ID: USTR-2025-0004, titled “Request for Comments on the Operation of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican

¹ Florida Agriculture Sounds the Alarm on Mexican Import Trade, AgAmerica, (Sept. 10, 2021), <https://agamerica.com/blog/fdacs-report-highlights/>.

² Rising State Minimum Wages in Specialty Crop-Producing States: Insights for Fresh Produce Growers, Southern Ag Today, (April 18, 2025), <https://southernagtoday.org/2025/04/18/rising-state-minimum-wages-in-specialty-crop-producing-states-insights-for-fresh-produce-growers/>.

³ Daniel Munch, Specialty Crops: Mounting Cost Pressure, Limited Risk Protection, American Farm Bureau Federation, (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/specialty-crops-mounting-cost-pressure-limited-risk-protection>.

States, and Canada.” We encourage you to prioritize the evaluation of these comments, and we emphasize the importance of these commodity industries’ submissions. We appreciate your consideration of our growers’ concerns, your review of the companion letter sent from 79 members of the U.S. House of Representatives on May 12, 2026 regarding this matter, and look forward to continued collaboration as the 2026 USMCA review process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



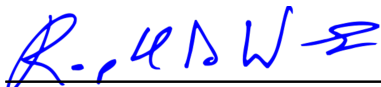
Ashley Moody
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

cc: U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins