



Dan Wright
President

June 6, 2025

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

RE: Opposition of Regeneration of the Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

The Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation (ArFB) welcomes the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to recent efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the U.S.-Mexico Antidumping Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA). We stand firm in our support of the Department of Commerce's April 14th decision to withdraw from the 2019 Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico.

ArFB is a non-profit agricultural advocacy organization, representing more than 180,000 members, including 50,000 directly involved in agricultural production. These members represent approximately 90% of Arkansas farmers and ranchers, many of whom are fruit and vegetable growers who supports any action that would require imported fruits and vegetables to be held to the same regulatory standards as domestic crops, ensuring that all producers compete under consistent, science-based rules that protect both consumers and American farmers.

For almost 30 years, we have seen the creation of five distinct tomato suspension agreements, none of which have effectively mitigated the damage to American producers. Despite the intended purpose of these agreements, the continued importation of unfairly traded Mexican tomatoes has contributed to the closure of numerous U.S. tomato farming operations.

In 2019, the Mexican industry had an opportunity to prove in court that its export practices were not harming American farmers. However, they failed to do so in proceedings before both the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission. Yet, the suspension agreement continues to offer protections to Mexican tomato imports, protections that undermine domestic producers who are playing by the rules.

Page 2

For years, Arkansas fruit and vegetable growers have called on the U.S. government to respond to these inequities. Enforcing existing trade remedy laws, starting with the termination of the current suspension agreement, is a critical step toward re-establishing a fair market for American farmers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Without effective trade laws in place, and with no return to a flawed renegotiation, the Arkansas tomato industry will continue to suffer losses and risks being pushed out of the competitive market. We urge you to stand by the decision to terminate the TSA.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Wright

DW/kw



FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

THE VOICE OF AGRICULTURE

June 2, 2025

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

RE: Opposition to Renegotiation of the Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) welcomes the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to recent efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the U.S.-Mexico Antidumping Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA). We stand firm in our support of the Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the TSA, as announced on April 14, 2025, and urge you to uphold this action without further delay.

FFBF is a grassroots organization representing 132,000 member-families, many of whom are fruit and vegetable growers suffering immense financial losses at the hands of Mexican fresh tomato imports. As we stated in our letter to your predecessor in 2023, these impacts are not exclusive to Florida, with over 60% of fresh tomatoes grown in America produced outside our state. At that time, we supported the Florida Tomato Exchange's request to terminate the TSA, and our position has not wavered.

The TSA, established by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and signatory producers/exporters of fresh tomatoes from Mexico, was intended to halt unfair trade practices. A DOC investigation concluded Mexican tomatoes were being dumped at an average rate of 20.91%. The 2019 TSA aimed to close loopholes of prior agreements in exchange for suspending antidumping duties. However, as we noted in 2023, the DOC documented over 100 cases of Mexican companies violating this binding, legal agreement. Time has proven the TSA unenforceable and ineffective.

Over 27 years, Mexican tomato imports have surged nearly 400 percent, allowing Mexico to dominate the U.S. and tomato industry by controlling over 65 percent of the market. Meanwhile, the U.S. market share has plummeted to an all-time low of 30 percent. Recent efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the TSA ignore this history of failure and the ongoing harm to Florida growers. Renegotiation would only perpetuate an unenforceable strategy, further eroding our domestic industry.

Florida fruit and vegetable producers have consistently asked the U.S. government to address Mexico's unfair trade practices. As we emphasized in our 2023 letter, the application and effective enforcement of current trade remedy laws, feasible for Florida producers, is the critical first step toward comprehensive policies. Termination of the TSA, followed by the imposition of antidumping duties as required by law, is the only path forward to protect our growers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Without effective trade laws in place, and with no return to a flawed renegotiation, the Florida tomato industry will continue to suffer losses and risks being pushed out of the competitive market. We urge you to stand by the decision to terminate the TSA, effective July 14, 2025, and impose the 20.91% antidumping duties to level the playing field for American agriculture.

Most Respectfully,



Jeb S. Smith
President



GEORGIA FARM BUREAU
P.O. Box 7068 • 1620 Bass Rd
Macon, Georgia 31209-7068

June 24, 2025

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

RE: Support for Termination of the U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

Georgia Farm Bureau has long been a preeminent advocate for agriculture in Georgia, acting as the voice of over 235,000 member families. Our membership engagement and deliberation enable us to develop policy on issues encompassing fuel, fiber, and food security, keeping American agriculture a premier sustainable industry. On behalf of the Georgia Farm Bureau, we strongly support the U.S. Department of Commerce's April 14, 2025, decision to terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA) with Mexico.

Since its inception in 1996, the TSA has failed to curb the dumping of Mexican tomatoes in the U.S. market despite its five iterations. Mexican tomatoes now command over 65% of the U.S. market share, while American producers' share has dwindled from 80% to approximately 30%. This imbalance has severely impacted Georgia's tomato growers, who struggle to compete in a market flooded with unfairly priced imports.

Recent attempts by Mexico to renegotiate the TSA overlook its history of ineffectiveness and violations. Georgia Farm Bureau advocates for a fair marketplace for our farmers. Enforcing the legally warranted 20.91% antidumping duties is a critical step toward achieving this goal.

Food security is integral to national security, and a thriving America relies on supporting its farmers with equitable market conditions. Terminating the TSA reinforces our commitment to protecting domestic agriculture. Without action, we risk further erosion of our vital produce industry, threatening the livelihoods of Georgia's farm families and the sustainability of U.S. agriculture.

We respectfully urge the Department of Commerce to uphold the termination of the TSA and enforce antidumping measures to ensure fair trade. Thank you for your dedication to American agriculture and for considering this critical issue.

Sincerely,

President Tom McCall
Georgia Farm Bureau

June 13, 2025
The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Opposition to Renegotiation of the Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

As Michigan's largest general farm organization, we are concerned about the economic impacts on our nation's tomato growers due to the steady increase of imports. We believe that the Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the U.S.-Mexico Antidumping Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA), as announced on April 14, 2025, will protect tomato growers and we urge the Department to avoid any attempts by the Mexican Government to renegotiate.

Since 1996, five suspension agreements have been negotiated in attempts to address the issue. The Department of Commerce and Mexican growers entered into new agreements in 2002, 2008 and 2019. The current agreement is meant to ensure that Mexican tomatoes would be sold at or above the agreements reference prices to eliminate the injurious effects of exports of fresh tomatoes to the U.S. The agreement came after the Department of Commerce determined that Mexico had continued dumping tomatoes in the U.S. market, and the International Trade Commission made a determination that the domestic industry had been injured.

Even with suspension agreements in place, Mexican tomato imports have continued to increase. Since 1994, Mexican tomato imports have increased nearly 400% and Mexico now controls over 65% of the U.S. market. During that time, the U.S. industry's market share has dropped from 80% to around 30% today. American tomato growers across the country, including Michigan, have been forced out of business. Food security is national security, and it is vital that we maintain a fair and level playing field for our U.S. farmers when faced with foreign competition.

Many of the specialty crops we grow in Michigan continue to lose market share from foreign competitors, hitting especially hard during our peak production times and driving down domestic prices. We have heard loud and clear from these growers that our trade laws are not working for them. The enforcement of current trade remedy laws is important and necessary in developing comprehensive policies.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on long-term solutions that can help maintain and grow a strong specialty crop sector in the United States.

Sincerely,



Ben LaCross
President



**NORTH CAROLINA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, INC.**

PO Box 27766, Raleigh, NC 27611 Phone: 919-782-1705 Fax: 919-783-3593 www.ncfb.org

June 5, 2025

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

RE: Support for Termination of the U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation is our state's largest general agriculture organization with more than 600,000 member families and representing a diverse set of commodity producers across the state, including those who grow fruits & vegetables. We write to express our strong support for the U.S. Department of Commerce's April 14, 2025 decision to terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA) between the United States and Mexico.

Since 1996, five versions of the TSA have attempted to address the dumping of Mexican tomatoes into the U.S. market. Unfortunately, none of these agreements have achieved their intended purpose. Even with the measures in place, Mexican tomatoes continue to dominate the U.S. market, now controlling over 65% of domestic market share, while U.S. producers have seen their share plummet from 80% to around 30%. Instead of correcting the issue, the TSA has proven ineffective. Our state's tomato growers have borne the brunt of this failure, struggling to compete in a market distorted by dumped imports.

Adding to our concern are recent efforts by Mexico to renegotiate the TSA. These efforts ignore the long-standing history of violations and market disruption. North Carolina Farm Bureau has consistently advocated for a level playing field for our growers. Implementing the 20.91% antidumping duties now warranted by law is an essential step toward restoring fairness to the fresh produce market.

Food security is national security. And, a healthy America begins with empowering the American farmer to sell their products in our stores under fair market conditions. Upholding the termination of the TSA sends a clear message that the United States stands behind its farmers. If the current situation continues, we risk losing a critical part of our domestic produce industry. The livelihoods of North Carolina's farm families, and the sustainability of American agriculture more broadly, depend on fair and enforceable trade laws.

We respectfully urge the Department of Commerce to terminate the existing Tomato Suspension Agreement and uphold the principles of fair trade by enforcing the necessary antidumping measures. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to American agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn Harding".

Shawn Harding
President

*Farm Bureau and Agriculture...
We keep North Carolina growing!*



168 West State Street, Trenton New Jersey 08608
Phone: 609-393-7163
Fax: 609-393-7535
Website: www.njfb.org

June 5, 2025

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

RE: Support for Termination of the U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

New Jersey Farm Bureau (NJFB) is the state's largest general agriculture organization with more than 5,000 member families. NJFB welcomes the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to recent efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the U.S.-Mexico Antidumping Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA). We stand firm in support of the Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the TSA, as announced on April 14, 2025, and urge you to uphold this action without delay.

Since 1996, five versions of the TSA have attempted to address the dumping of Mexican tomatoes into the U.S. market. Unfortunately, none of these agreements have achieved their intended purpose. Even with the measures in place, Mexican tomato imports have surged 400 percent, and dominate the U.S. market, now controlling over 65% of domestic market share, while U.S. producers have seen their share plummet from 80% to around 30%. Instead of correcting the issue, the TSA has proven ineffective.

Recent efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the TSA ignore this history of failure and the ongoing harm to New Jersey and all American growers. Renegotiation would only perpetuate an unenforceable strategy, further eroding our domestic industry. Implementing the 20.91% antidumping duties now warranted by law is an essential step toward restoring fairness to the fresh produce market.

Upholding the termination of the TSA sends a clear message that the United States stands behind its farmers. If the current situation continues, we risk losing a critical part of our domestic produce industry. The sustainability of New Jersey farmers and American agriculture more broadly, depend on fair and enforceable trade laws.

We respectfully urge the Department of Commerce to terminate the existing Tomato Suspension Agreement and uphold the principles of fair trade by enforcing the necessary antidumping measures. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Carter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allen Carter
President



South Carolina
Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 754 - Columbia, SC 29202-0754
803-796-6700 - Fax 803-936-4496
www.scfb.org

June 13, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We are writing in support of terminating the United States Department of Commerce Tomato Suspension Agreement of 2019. The Tomato Suspension Agreement established on November 1, 1996, with five amendments since its inception, does not achieve its intended purpose. We request that the Department of Commerce enforce antidumping laws to best protect the American tomato industry.

Over the last 28 years, Mexico has continued to hold the majority market share for fresh tomatoes in the United States. The fresh tomatoes are particularly vulnerable given the crops' limited shelf stability prior to sale for market or processing. An excess of tomatoes on the market at the same time creates wasted product. With Mexico dumping tomatoes on the market, the unexpected supply has an adverse effect on American producers. Many of these producers are having to leave production due to the unregulated supply from Mexico. The Tomato Suspension Agreement does not serve its purpose in protecting American producers in the domestic markets.

We request the Department of Commerce terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement as it is not enforceable. The Tomato Suspension Agreement has failed producers repeatedly. The Department of Commerce cannot allow this agreement to stand as the sole solution as it is detrimental to our domestic tomato crop.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Harry Ott, President
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation



TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

June 6, 2025

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

RE: Opposition to Renegotiation of the Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF) represents a diverse group of commodity producers across the state and, with over 685,000 members, is the largest general farm organization in Tennessee. On behalf of our member producers, we are concerned about the impacts of increasing imports on tomato growers in Tennessee and nationwide. Thus, we write this letter in strong opposition of the proposed efforts by the Mexican government to renegotiate the U.S.-Mexico Antidumping Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA). We extend our firm support for the recent decision to terminate the TSA and urge the Department of Commerce to maintain this position.

Over the past 27 years, five separate tomato suspension agreements have attempted to curtail the dumping of Mexican tomato imports with little success. In this time frame, Mexican tomato imports have increased nearly 400 percent, resulting in Mexico occupying over 65 percent of the U.S. tomato market. Simultaneously, the U.S. market share has decreased from 80 percent to approximately 30 percent. Over the years, this reduced market share has forced numerous American tomato growers out of the industry.

America's fruit and vegetable growers have long asked the U.S. government to create a policy addressing unfair trade practices in Mexico. The decision to terminate the TSA is a crucial step in the right direction. By doing this, 20.91% antidumping duties will be imposed on Mexican tomato imports, providing much-needed support fruit and vegetable growers in Tennessee and across the nation. Thus, we urge you to maintain the decision to terminate the TSA, effective July 14, 2025, and impose the necessary antidumping duties on Mexican tomatoes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Mayberry".

Eric Mayberry
President



June 19, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
Attention: Enforcement and Compliance
APO/Dockets Unit, Room 18022
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (AFVGA), we write to strongly urge the immediate termination of the 2019 Suspension Agreement on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico and the imposition of antidumping duties, as mandated under U.S. trade law.

AFVGA represents fruit and vegetable growers across Alabama, including producers in key tomato-growing regions. As an affiliate of the Alabama Farmers Federation, we are part of an organization that advocates for more than 300,000 members statewide. Our growers work every day to produce high-quality, American-grown fruits and vegetables that support local economies and food systems.

For nearly thirty years and through five versions, suspension agreements have failed to prevent the dumping of Mexican tomatoes in the U.S. market. The 2019 Agreement has proven no different. Despite the Department of Commerce's enforcement efforts, Mexican exporters have exploited loopholes to continue dumping tomatoes at unfairly low prices—practices that have devastated American tomato growers.

Since 1994, Mexican tomato imports have surged nearly 400% and now dominate more than 70% of the U.S. market. This influx has forced many U.S. growers—especially small, family-run operations—out of business and severely weakened rural economies. Investigations by both the Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission have confirmed the material injury caused by dumped Mexican tomatoes. In 2025, the U.S. Court of International Trade reinforced this conclusion.

The facts are clear: the Suspension Agreement is not working. U.S. law requires its termination, and our growers deserve no less.

Ending the agreement will not halt imports from Mexico; it will simply require that tomatoes be sold at fair market value. That is a basic expectation—one that American farmers are entitled to under the law.

We urge the Department to act decisively and without delay. Enforcing our trade laws must apply equally to agriculture as it does to manufacturing. Our tomato producers, and the rural communities they support, are counting on it.

Sincerely,



Blake Thaxton

Executive Director, Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association



Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association | *An Affiliate of the Alabama Farmers Federation*
P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191-0001 | 334-288-3900 | FAX 334-284-3957



June 20, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
Attention: Enforcement and Compliance
APO/Dockets Unit, Room 18022
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the members of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, I write to urge the immediate termination of the 2019 Suspension Agreement on fresh tomatoes from Mexico and the imposition of antidumping duties, as required under U.S. trade law.

This action would be a positive step toward helping tomato growers compete on a level playing field and ensure American consumers are not forced to rely on foreign sources for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Despite the good faith efforts of the U.S. Department of Commerce over the last six years, the 2019 Suspension Agreement has proven to be unenforceable. All five suspension agreements over the last 29 years have failed to stop unfair Mexican tomato imports from being dumped into the U.S. market and injuring the U.S. industry.

Even with suspension agreements in place, Mexican tomato imports have continued to flood the U.S. market and drive American tomato growers out of business.

- Since 1994, the year NAFTA was enacted, Mexican tomato imports have increased nearly 400 percent and Mexico now controls over 65 percent of the U.S. market.
- What's more, hundreds of American tomato growers across the country have been forced out of the industry over the years and are still being forced to shut down operations.
- Specific to Florida, in 1990, prior to NAFTA and the first suspension agreement, the Florida Tomato Committee registrations and pack out data indicate that 60,000 acres of tomatoes were produced by approximately 300 growers. Today, five suspension agreements later, less than 25,000 acres of tomatoes are produced by approximately 50 growers.

In 2019, the Mexican industry had their day in court to prove they were not dumping and injuring American farmers. They failed to make their case before both the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission, but the current suspension agreement continues to shield unfairly traded Mexican tomato imports from antidumping duties.

While tomato growers are on the front line of this fight, the trends outlined above are also seen in other specialty crops in the U.S. Where Mexican volume has increased, Southeastern production of fruits and vegetables, such as peppers, watermelon, cucumbers and strawberries, has fallen.

**P.O. Box 948153, Maitland, FL 32794-8153 • 800 Trafalgar Court, Suite 200, Maitland, FL 32751
321.214.5200 • fax 321.214.0210 • www.ffva.com**

For well over two decades, the Mexican government has provided enormous annual subsidies to support virtually all aspects of its fruit and vegetable industry, including vast investments in infrastructure for protected agriculture, equipment, post-harvest management, genetic resources, irrigation technology and more. Those unfair subsidies, coupled with widespread dumping and other unfair pricing practices by Mexican exporters, have made Mexico the largest exporter of fruit and vegetable produce to the U.S. market during Florida's winter growing season.

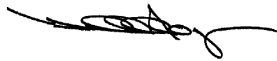
Those practices have given the Mexican industry an unfair trade advantage, resulting in lost sales, market share, production, acreage, profits, returns on investment, and jobs for the Florida industry. Many have simply been forced to shut down their operations. These impacts have been well documented by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service and others.

That is why this administration must effectively implement U.S. trade laws and recognize the current Tomato Suspension Agreement is not working and should be terminated.

It is time American farmers see a strong signal from the administration that trade laws can work for them and not just for U.S. manufacturing companies.

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy in effectively implementing U.S. trade laws and protecting domestic tomato growers.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Joyner
President





P.O. Box 2945
LaGrange, GA 30241
Toll Free: 1-877-99GFVGA
Fax: (706) 883-8215
www.gfvga.org

June 30, 2025

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

RE: Support for Termination of the U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

On behalf of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (GFVGA), I am writing to express our strong support for the Department of Commerce's April 14, 2025, decision to terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA) with Mexico.

GFVGA represents fruit and vegetable growers across Georgia, including tomato producers who have long suffered from the damaging impacts of unfair trade practices. Since the original TSA was established in 1996, repeated attempts to curb the dumping of Mexican tomatoes into the U.S. market have failed. Despite multiple revisions, the agreement has not delivered a level playing field for domestic growers. Today, Mexican tomatoes dominate more than 65% of the U.S. market, while the share held by American producers has fallen sharply—from 80% to just 30%.

This market distortion has had a particularly harsh impact on Georgia tomato growers, who face rising production costs and increasing difficulty competing with artificially low-priced imports. Recent proposals by Mexico to renegotiate the agreement ignore this longstanding pattern of violations and ineffectiveness.

We believe enforcing the legally antidumping duties is essential to restoring fairness to the tomato market and supporting American growers. Strong trade enforcement ensures that U.S. agriculture remains viable, competitive, and secure.

Terminating the TSA is a critical step toward protecting domestic fruit and vegetable producers—not just in Georgia, but across the country. We urge the Department of Commerce to stand firm in its decision, uphold the termination of the TSA, and move forward with enforcement of antidumping measures.

Thank you for your continued support of American agriculture and for your attention to this important issue

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Butts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Butts
Executive Vice President

THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL, INC.

6835 S Krepps Rd • St Johns, MI 48879 • 517-663-6725

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GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND FARM MARKET EXPO

Grand Rapids, Michigan

December 9-11, 2025 • December 8-10, 2026

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Hudsonville, MI

Executive Director

GREG BIRD
St Johns, MI

Date: June 20, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We write to urge the immediate termination of the 2019 Suspension Agreement on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico and the imposition of antidumping duties, as required under U.S. trade law.

The Michigan Vegetable Council was formed to support the vegetable growers in Michigan. As of the 2017 NASS census, Michigan had about 165,000 acres of vegetables grown here. As of the 2022 NASS census, Michigan had about 152,000 acres of vegetables grown here. Each year the United States imports more and more produce from foreign countries and this shows in the acreage remaining in Michigan.

Fresh market tomatoes are one of the key vegetables grown here in our extremely diverse agriculture industry. A fresh market tomato grower in Michigan estimates his box of tomato costs about \$11.50 to produce, while a Mexican box of tomato costs about \$4.75 to produce. Competing with that big of a discrepancy is impossible

Over nearly three decades and five versions, these agreements have failed to stop the flood of dumped tomatoes from Mexico. Despite the Commerce Department's enforcement efforts, the 2019 Agreement has been exploited by Mexican exporters to continue dumping practices that are devastating American tomato producers. Since 1994, Mexican tomato imports have surged by nearly 400%, now controlling over 70% of the U.S. market. American farmers, especially small and family-run operations have been driven out of business, threatening the economic health of rural communities.

Investigations by the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission have confirmed that dumped Mexican tomatoes materially injure domestic growers. In 2025, the U.S. Court of International Trade further affirmed

THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL, INC.

6835 S Krepps Rd • St Johns, MI 48879 • 517-663-6725

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GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND FARM MARKET EXPO

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DEREK OOMEN

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Dowagiac, MI

JANELLE TOTZKE

Stevensville, MI

ROGER VICTORY

Hudsonville, MI

Executive Director

GREG BIRD

St Johns, MI

this pattern. Simply put, the Suspension Agreement is not working, and the law requires its termination.

Termination will not stop Mexican tomatoes from entering the U.S.—they will just need to be sold at fair prices. That's the minimum standard U.S. farmers deserve.

We strongly urge the Department to act without delay. American tomato farmers need assurance that U.S. trade laws will be enforced—not just for manufacturing, but for agriculture too.

Sincerely,



Greg Bird

Executive Director

Michigan Vegetable Council

6835 S Krepps Rd

St Johns, MI 48879

gbird@michiganvegetablecouncil.org

mobile: (517)392-0719



***North Carolina
Tomato Growers Association***

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
Attention: Enforcement and Compliance
APO/Dockets Unit, Room 18022
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

On behalf of our organization, I am writing to support the termination of the Tomato Suspension Agreement.

The N.C. Tomato Growers Association represents North Carolina tomato growers and works to support the tomato industry and address issues that affect vegetable growers and tomato growers.

Despite five attempts over nearly three decades, the agreements have repeatedly failed to protect American tomato producers. Mexican exporters continue to undercut domestic prices through unfair trade practices. In 2019, they were found guilty of dumping and injuring U.S. farmers, and yet the current agreement shields them from the appropriate consequences.

Terminating the Agreement and enforcing U.S. trade laws is the only viable path forward to restore fair competition and support domestic agriculture. Our producers are fully capable of meeting demand year-round, but they require a fair market to thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Randall Patterson, President
N.C. Tomato Growers Association

RP/elm