



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

October 8, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Greer and Secretary Rollins:

I write to express urgent and growing concern about the profound damage that President Trump's trade war is inflicting on Illinois soybean farmers. President Trump's capricious and careless moves on trade have given the People's Republic of China (PRC) reason to exercise punishing measures on this key part of the U.S. economy, effectively eliminating the largest export market for U.S. soybean farmers and allowing foreign competitors to supplant U.S. producers. I urge the Administration to take steps to minimize the impact of the PRC's punitive action. We must work to open new export channels, stabilize farm income, and restore confidence in U.S. agricultural trade.

As the nation's leading soybean-producing state, Illinois has been severely harmed by President Trump's trade war. Illinois has one of the strongest farm economies in the United States, producing 15 percent of all soybeans in the country, supporting tens of thousands of jobs, and accounting for roughly \$7 billion in economic activity.¹ Last year, Illinois exported \$1.4 billion of soybeans to China.² This year, that number has dropped to zero. This abrupt collapse has dealt a devastating blow to Illinois' farm economy, threatening livelihoods and the stability of our rural communities.

The President's uncoordinated tariffs and the PRC's punishing retaliation are costing U.S. soybean farmers their largest export market. To add insult to injury, countries like Brazil and Argentina are stepping in to fill the gap, offering China long-term supply arrangements that threaten to permanently displace U.S. farmers. The loss of buyer relationships, the erosion of trust in American reliability, and the volatility in farm income all pose serious risks to our agricultural competitiveness and our national interest. Furthermore, farmers have invested heavily in equipment and acreage based on the expectation of stable export demand. But due to this administration's trade war, they now face surplus inventories, depressed domestic markets,

¹ "Field of Soy Dreams in Illinois." *Earth Observatory NASA*, 2025, <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/154418/field-of-soy-dreams-in-illinois#:~:text=The%202024%20soybean%20harvest%20in,2024%2C%20producing%2022.6%20million%20bushels>.

² "Illinois Grain Tour examines state of soybean industry amid international trade war." *WGLT*, October 1, 2025. <https://www.wglit.org/local-news/2025-10-01/illinois-grain-tour-examines-state-of-soybean-industry-amid-international-trade-war>.

and shrinking margins. Many are carrying significant debt and face real threats to their ability to continue farming.

The American Soybean Association has publicly condemned the Administration's actions and called for stabilizing trade relations in this area, warning that "the farm economy is suffering while our competitors supplant the United States in the biggest soybean import market in the world."³ For Illinois, where soybean production is the backbone of many rural economies, these developments are devastating. During the annual 2025 Illinois Grain Tour, the Illinois Soybean Association hosted foreign buyers of U.S. soybean crop. These buyers, which included Chinese processors, reaffirmed their desire to purchase the high-quality and affordable crop from the US but noted that doing so was beyond their control because of how bilateral trade relations have degraded.⁴

I have recently expressed concern regarding this Administration's uncoordinated tariff strategy and its impacts on the U.S. economy in letters transmitted on February 10, 2025, and again on March 19, 2025. In my February letter, I urged the Department of Agriculture to develop contingency plans to respond to PRC agricultural retaliation, a request that appears to have gone unheeded. Instead, this Administration is reportedly preparing a one-time bailout for impacted farmers.⁵ Historically, this approach leaves farmers with no sustainable solution to ongoing trade challenges and lacks any meaningful oversight.⁶ In March, I wrote again highlighting the dangers of an uncoordinated approach to tariffing our economic adversary. Tariffs can be a valuable tool to both protect domestic industry from nonmarket practices and compel adherence to international standards. Yet, this Administration appears more interested in wielding them as a blunt tool regardless of the impact on key U.S. sectors.

To address this crisis, I urge your agencies to pursue the following actions.

1. Expand and diversify export markets by strengthening USDA trade promotion programs and using the full weight of U.S. diplomacy to open new channels in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East;
2. Stabilize farm income by leveraging targeted direct support programs for soybean producers, enhancing crop insurance and revenue protection tools, and providing transitional credit or low-interest financing to help farmers weather this disruption; and

³ American Soybean Association. "ASA Responds to Argentina Soybean Actions." *SoyGrowers*, 24 Sept. 2025, www.soygrowers.com/news-releases/asa-responds-to-argentina-soybean-actions/.

⁴ Fleming, Taylor. "'End of the Day, We Need a Deal,' Say Illinois Soybean Association Leaders on China." *25News Now*, 1 Oct. 2025, www.25newsnow.com/2025/10/01/end-day-we-need-deal-say-illinois-soybean-association-leaders-china/.

⁵ "Trump Farmer Bailout Coming Soon." *The Des Moines Register*, 7 Oct. 2025, www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2025/10/07/us-farmer-bailout-coming-soon/86556925007/.

⁶ U.S. Government Accountability Office. *USDA Market Facilitation Program: Oversight of Future Supplemental Assistance to Farmers Could Be Improved*. GAO-22-104259, Jan. 2022. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-104259.pdf>.

3. Publicly reaffirm that U.S. farmers will not be sacrificed in broader geopolitical maneuvering and work toward a swift resolution that restores meaningful access for U.S. soybeans in the PRC market.

The American men and women who grow our soybeans deserve more than one-time bailouts or temporary relief—they want markets, certainty, and a level playing field. Illinois farmers are on the front lines of this disruption, and they cannot wait for a distant or uncertain resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP