



Nov. 21, 2017

Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 521
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran,

On behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, I'd like to thank you for your open letter regarding NAFTA and for making this issue a priority. We assure you that Kansas Corn shares your concerns. NAFTA and trade are also top issues for KCGA and the National Corn Growers Association. A withdrawal from NAFTA would be devastating to our nation's economy, especially the agricultural economy. We are working closely with NCGA on evolving strategies to aggressively defend NAFTA.

While the President has told farmers not to worry, it is our view that damage is already being done. Kansas Corn began taking concrete actions early this year, when we led a trade team to Mexico, coordinated with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Department of Commerce. Our visit to Mexico in May led to a reciprocating visit from top Mexican buyers to Kansas in August. In fact, we hosted three Mexican trade teams this summer. We not only discussed building trade with Mexico, we discussed the outlook for trade and the implications of the NAFTA renegotiation. Kansas Corn and our Mexican trading partners share concern on this issue. Mexico is the #1 export buyer of U.S. corn, and the country also represents important existing and potential markets for DDGS and ethanol.

While it is important to emphasize the impact of direct agricultural exports from Kansas, we also value the total U.S. ag export picture. Exports from other corn-producing states along the Mississippi River, like Iowa and Illinois, have a significant impact on the prices our farmers receive for their corn. Nationally, one of every three rows of corn is exported.

As you know, our agriculture sector is already reeling from low commodity prices. Withdrawing from NAFTA would be devastating to agriculture and to the economy. Those impacts are deeply felt in Kansas where 45 percent of our economy comes from agriculture.

Thanks again, Senator Moran, for sharing our stance that NAFTA is a priority issue for agriculture and our economy. We are ready and willing to work with you and your staff and will keep you updated on our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken McCauley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ken McCauley, President
Kansas Corn Growers Association

