



CRA Statement for the Record

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Hearing: “Farm Bill 2023: Trade and Horticulture” Feb. 1, 2023

The Corn Refiners Association (CRA) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following statement for the record to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry’s hearing on the trade and horticulture Farm Bill titles. CRA looks forward to working with the committee on the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization process.

Regarding agricultural trade, CRA is also grateful for the Senate’s confirmation of USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator Doug McKalip and USDA Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor. We are thankful for their swift action on USMCA compliance and their leadership on all trade matters.

From farm to fork, the agricultural supply chain contributes over \$7.4 trillion to the U.S. economy annually. These industries are responsible for roughly one-fifth of the country’s economic activity, directly supporting 21.5 million jobs or more than 14% of U.S. employment.

With 95% of the world’s consumers overseas, exports are a critical part of that economic activity and of the utmost importance to the overall health and sustainability of the U.S. economy.

- U.S. agriculture-based exports support more than one million U.S. jobs, including 750,000 in the nonfarm sector.
- Agriculture manufacturing activity alone supports over 2.3 million jobs, contributing over \$1.1 trillion in economic activity to the U.S.
- Fully 20% of American farm revenue comes from exports and U.S. agriculture has achieved an annual trade surplus going back decades.
- Every dollar of agricultural exports stimulates another \$1.27 in business activity.

American farmers count on a transparent, predictable, rules-based global trading system that drives sales of our world-class products, lowers expenses, and provides a reliable way to conduct business



with our trading partners. Although the U.S. has completed four trade agreements since 2010, we continue to fall behind other countries placing American agriculture at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. For comparison, between 2010 and 2020, China entered into 10 trade agreements, the EU eight, Canada eight, and Japan seven.

We are now staring down a deficit, as USDA has projected a \$9 billion agricultural trade deficit in fiscal year 2023. If we do not increase our trade ties with allies, China and other countries will continue to take advantage of our lack of engagement. We understand that market access is a two-way street, but U.S. tariffs are already among the lowest in the world. We need to engage to open other economies and ensure a level-playing field for the U.S.

Congress has the power to encourage the Biden Administration to expand market opportunities for farmers. This is an opportune time to reassert Congressional power on trade.

CRA appreciates this opportunity to comment on these urgent issues. Please contact Robin Bowen at rbowen@corn.org or Kent Roberson at kroberson@corn.org with any questions.