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Nebraska, States Corn Growers Associations Call on Biden for Quick Action on Mexico Decree

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LINCOLN, Neb. – The presidents of 23 state corn grower groups, joined by the president of the National Corn Growers Association, sent a letter to President Biden yesterday calling for him to take additional steps to address the pending decree by Mexico that would block imports of biotech corn. The Nebraska Corn Growers Association's (NeCGA) president, Andy Jobman, was among the letter's signatories.

"As we continue to bring this issue to Ambassador Katherine Tai, NeCGA's membership is baffled by the lack of action on this issue and that an enforcement case has not been brought forward," states Jobman. "Nebraska, U.S. farmers and the agricultural industry are backed by decades of research to prove that genetically modified (GM) corn is safe for human consumption."

The letter encouraged the President to raise the issue during upcoming trade talks and to file a dispute under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) if Mexico doesn't act expeditiously to withdraw the decree.

"Corn farmers are right now in the process of making planting and purchasing decisions for next spring, and any additional uncertainty in the market affects their ability to appropriately respond to multiple market signals," the corn grower leaders said. "If the decree is not completely withdrawn by the established deadline, we ask that your administration initiate a case under USMCA."

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The letter is in response to a promise by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) to end imports of biotech corn beginning in early 2024. Ninety percent of corn grown in the U.S. is biotech, often called GM corn.

Mexico's Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard plans to visit Washington D.C. this week to discuss the issue ahead of a planned meeting on trade between President Biden, President AMLO and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in early January.

"Because the stakes for farmers and rural America are so high, we are calling on you to make this issue a critical part of your January 9th meeting with President López Obrador and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," the letter says.

With the clear violation of the USMCA trade pact, the Biden Administration needs to take immediate action to protect U.S. trade efforts and the livelihoods of farmers across the country. This decree affects time sensitive planting decisions that must be made soon. The Nebraska Corn Growers Association, once again, implores the Biden Administration and the office of the United States Trade Representative to stand on the agreement of USMCA.

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The Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) is a grassroots commodity organization that works to enhance the profitability of corn producers. NeCGA has more than 2,500 dues-paying members in Nebraska. NeCGA is affiliated with the National Corn Growers Association, which has more than 40,000 dues-paying members nationwide.

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