March 10, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of America's corn farmers and the undersigned state corn grower organizations, we write to reiterate our urgent request that the Department of Justice provide a formal status report on its investigation into fertilizer pricing and market concentration. Several of our member organizations, including Iowa Corn Growers Association[1] and Texas Corn Producers Association,[2] have previously written to your office on this matter. To date, those letters have gone unanswered. We now join as a unified coalition to underscore the depth and breadth of concern across the nation's corn-producing states.

Since those initial letters were sent, the situation facing our members has not improved; rather, it has worsened. As we enter the heart of the 2026 planting season, the cost-income squeeze on American farmers has intensified. Crop prices remain depressed, while the costs of essential nutrients continue to reflect a market distorted by excessive concentration. According to DTN market data, DAP fertilizer currently stands at $851 per ton - $108 higher than a year ago. MAP is $879 per ton, up $71, and potash is $488 per ton, up $52.[3] Overall corn production costs are projected to climb another 4% in 2026. Farmers are making critical purchasing decisions right now under the weight of an input market that this Administration's own officials have described as broken. The consequences of inaction are not abstract. Across every corn-producing region in the country, farm families are operating on razor-thin margins at best - and at a net loss in many cases. Net farm income is projected to decline sharply in 2026, and historic investments in ad hoc support programs have been outpaced by the crushing cost of input prices. Farmers cannot control the global price of corn, but they expect the prices they pay for critical inputs to be determined by a fair and competitive market - not by the pricing power of a handful of dominant companies.

Leadership at the U.S. Department of Agriculture has publicly identified a "duopoly" in the fertilizer market and called the level of concentration "unacceptable."[4] Secretary Rollins has warned of "vulnerabilities to price-fixing" in the industry.[5] When the very agency tasked with championing America's farmers sounds this alarm, the urgency for action is beyond dispute.

We recognize and appreciate the steps the Administration has taken to date, including the September 2025 Memorandum of Understanding between the DOJ and USDA and the President's December 6, 2025 Executive Order directing the Department and the Federal Trade Commission to establish Food Supply Chain Security Task Forces and investigate anticompetitive conduct in sectors including fertilizer. We are also encouraged by recent reports indicating that the Antitrust Division has opened an active investigation into pricing practices among major fertilizer producers. If accurate, this development represents a meaningful step toward the accountability our members have long called for.

However, our members need clarity. We also note the recent leadership transition within the Antitrust Division and respectfully request assurance that the Department's work on fertilizer market concentration will continue without interruption. The December Executive Order requires the DOJ to brief congressional leadership on their findings within six months and again within one year. As that first deadline approaches, we respectfully ask the Department to: (1) publicly confirm that fertilizer markets are within the active scope of the Food Supply Chain Security Task Force and any related investigations; (2) ensure that the perspectives of America's farmers and their representative organizations are included in the stakeholder engagement informing this work; and (3) make the findings of the required congressional briefings available to the agricultural stakeholders most directly affected by anticompetitive conduct in the fertilizer industry.

America's corn farmers are the backbone of our domestic food, feed, and fuel supply. They deserve a marketplace where competition—not consolidation—determines the cost of doing business. The Administration has rightly identified agricultural market concentration as a threat to our nation's food security. We now ask the Department to match that resolve with transparency and continued action.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Lee Neel, President
Georgia Corn Growers Association

Mark Bunselmeyer, President
Illinois Corn Growers Association

Mark Mueller
Iowa Corn Growers Association

Matt Splitter, President
Kansas Corn Growers Association

Micah Lester, President
Kentucky Corn Growers Association

John Delmotte, President
Michigan Corn Growers Association

Wesley Beck, President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Brian Lehman, President
Missouri Corn Growers Association

Michael Dibbern, President
Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Brian Leier, President
North Dakota Corn Growers Association

Eric Tipton, President
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association

Jason Creamer, President
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association

Trent Kubik, President
South Dakota Corn Growers Association

Hagen Hunt, President
Texas Corn Producers Association

CC:
Georgia Corn Growers Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Corn Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
Texas Corn Producers Association

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[1] https://x.com/iowa_corn/status/2019456648654315988?s=20
[2] https://texascorn.org/tcpa-urges-the-doj-to-update-on-its-input-investigation/
[3] https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/columns/washington-insider/article/2026/02/10/usda-criticism-corn-growers-press
[4] https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/24087-vaden-criticized-fertilizer-duopoly-but-analysts-point-to-other-price-factors
[5] https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/12/12/icymi-secretary-rollins-pens-usa-today-op-ed-trump-fighting-protect-american-farmers