



September 18, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As American sorghum farmers move through the 2026 harvest season, thank you for your determination to expand and diversify export markets for U.S. agriculture. On behalf of National Sorghum Producers, I write to reaffirm our appreciation for the progress achieved during your October meeting with President Xi in Busan, South Korea, and for securing China's subsequent commitment in May to purchase at least \$17 billion annually in U.S. agricultural products, in addition to its soybean commitments, for the next three years.

This commitment represents an important opportunity for U.S. sorghum farmers. Ahead of your upcoming meeting with President Xi in Washington, D.C., we ask that you build on that progress by ensuring sorghum receives a meaningful share of China's agricultural purchases and by establishing a durable, long-term trading relationship that provides greater stability for American producers.

For U.S. sorghum producers, the importance of the Chinese market cannot be overstated. Historically, close to 80 percent of U.S. sorghum exports have moved to China. On average, those shipments have totaled approximately 5 million to 7 million metric tons and generated between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in annual value. China is not simply one important customer for our industry. Its purchasing decisions directly affect prices, local basis, storage availability and planting decisions across the Sorghum Belt.

The urgency is increasing. Through conversations with participants in the international sorghum trade, we have learned that, for the first time ever, significant volumes of Brazilian sorghum have moved to China. Brazil was granted access to the Chinese sorghum market in late 2024 and continues to expand its production and export infrastructure.

American sorghum farmers and industry partners have spent more than 15 years building a trusted commercial relationship with Chinese customers. Other agricultural sectors have demonstrated how quickly Brazil can capture market share when U.S. products face tariffs or uncertain access. If purchasing relationships and supply chains shift away from the United States, that market share may be extremely difficult to regain. Time is of the essence.

We respectfully ask that the following actions be prioritized during your meeting with President Xi.

First, we strongly support your administration's work to establish and operationalize a Board of Trade with China that would allow trade in nonsensitive goods to continue even as the United States and China address more sensitive trade issues. U.S. sorghum should be included among those nonsensitive goods.

Second, China continues to impose a 10 percent retaliatory duty on U.S. sorghum that does not apply to sorghum imported from Brazil or other competitors. This duty should be eliminated so U.S. sorghum is

not placed at a competitive disadvantage and can be purchased freely by commercial firms, as well as Chinese state-owned enterprises.

Third, we ask that China's agricultural purchase commitments include a concrete and enforceable annual commitment to purchase a minimum of 5 million to 7 million metric tons of U.S. sorghum, or approximately \$1.6 billion in value. This level of purchasing is consistent with established commercial trade between our countries and would provide reliable demand for American producers. True success will come when these commitments result in completed sales, vessels being loaded and grain moving from U.S. farms to customers in China.

Fourth, the one-year suspension of Section 301 port fees applied to Chinese vessels is set to expire during an important shipping period for U.S. agriculture. We are concerned that implementing these fees could increase transportation costs, disrupt shipping and ultimately pass additional expenses back to farmers. We ask that steps be taken to ensure Section 301 port fees do not disrupt or diminish U.S. sorghum exports.

In summary, U.S. sorghum farmers ask that you build on the progress of your previous meetings with President Xi by securing meaningful and enforceable purchase commitments, eliminating tariffs and trade barriers that place American farmers at a disadvantage to Brazil and other competitors, preventing shipping disruptions and prioritizing a long-term agreement that provides consistency and predictability.

National Sorghum Producers appreciates your continued attention to agriculture in U.S.-China trade negotiations. Restoring fair and reliable access to this critical market would support sorghum producers, strengthen rural communities and protect a valuable market that American farmers have spent years developing.

We look forward to positive outcomes from the upcoming summit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy F", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amy France, Chair
National Sorghum Producers
Sorghum farmer, Scott City, Kansas

CC:

The Honorable Scott Bessent, secretary, United States Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Howard Lutnick, secretary, United States Department of Commerce
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Jamieson Greer, United States trade representative
The Honorable Julie Callahan, chief agricultural negotiator
The Honorable Mike Crapo, chair, United States Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, ranking member, United States Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable John Boozman, chair, United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, ranking member, United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
The Honorable Jason Smith, chair, United States House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Richard Neal, ranking member, United States House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Glenn Thompson, chair, United States House Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Angie Craig, ranking member, United States House Committee on Agriculture