



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

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Resolution on Recognizing the Importance of Fair Competition, Strong Supply Chains and Economic Opportunity in Grocery Retail and Meat Processing

WHEREAS, a secure, affordable, and reliable food supply is foundational to the success, health, and growth of the economies of Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have a deep and long-standing partnership in agriculture; for example, according to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States and Canada are each other's largest agricultural trading partners. The U.S. purchases 60.3 percent of Canada's agricultural exports. The U.S. supplies 50.3 percent of Canada's agricultural imports; and

WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds (62.6 percent) of U.S. agricultural exports to Canada in 2025 were in grains, fruit, vegetables, meat, and related products. Among the leading exports were (in U.S. dollars):

- fuel ethanol (\$1.5 billion);
- dog or cat food for retail sale (\$1.2 billion);
- cocoa and cocoa preparations (\$1.1 billion);
- beef and beef variety meats (\$881 million);
- live cattle (\$848 million); and
- pork and pork variety meats (\$750 million).

In 2025, 59.3 percent of U.S. agricultural imports from Canada consisted of meat and other animal products, grains and feeds, and oilseeds and oilseed products. The leading agricultural import in 2025 was cocoa and cocoa preparations (\$3.2 billion), followed by:

- canola oil (\$3.0 billion);
- beef and beef variety meats (\$3.0 billion);
- cattle and calves (\$1.8 billion);
- pastries, other sweet baked goods and puddings (\$1.7 billion);

- frozen potatoes (\$1.7 billion);
- bread and similar baked products (\$1.3 billion); and
- pork and pork variety meats (\$1.2 billion); and

WHEREAS,

The U.S. states and Canadian provinces in The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference are central to the U.S.-Canada agricultural trade relationship. According to AAFC data, the 11-state Midwest region exported \$10.94 billion (U.S. dollars) of agriculture and food products to Canada, and the four Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan exported \$32.1 billion to the U.S. in 2024. State and provincial-specific agriculture and food trade data are as follows:

- Illinois — Exports of \$1.8 billion and imports of \$3.6 billion
- Indiana — Exports of \$890 million and imports of \$1.2 billion
- Iowa — Exports of \$1.5 billion and imports of \$902 million
- Kansas — Exports of \$436 million and imports of \$185 million
- Michigan — Exports of \$1.1 billion and imports of \$1.5 billion
- Minnesota — Exports of \$1.0 billion and imports of \$929 million
- Nebraska — Exports of \$337 million and imports of \$520 million
- North Dakota — Exports of \$789 million and imports of \$1.2 billion
- Ohio — Exports of \$1.3 billion and imports of \$1.6 billion
- South Dakota — Exports of \$583 million and imports of \$113 million
- Wisconsin — Exports of \$1.2 billion and imports of \$950 million
- Alberta — Exports of \$6.7 billion and imports of \$2.3 billion
- Manitoba — Exports of \$3.1 billion and imports of \$1.4 billion
- Ontario — Exports of \$18 billion and imports of \$17.6 billion
- Saskatchewan — Exports of \$4.3 billion and imports of \$1 million; and

WHEREAS,

Canada-U.S. agricultural trade has expanded almost without interruption under a period of free-trade agreements between the two countries that began in 1989 with enactment of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (CUSTA) and that has continued under the North American Free Trade Agreement and, most recently, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Between 1988, the last year prior to CUSTA implementation, and 2025, U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and U.S. agricultural imports from Canada grew at compound annual rates of 7.4 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively; now therefore be it

RESOLVED,

that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) supports federal, state and provincial policies that strengthen Canada-U.S. agricultural trade, recognizing its importance in ensuring food security, reliability and affordability for the region's households and economic growth; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the MLC urges any future reviews of or changes to the USMCA or other U.S.-Canada trade agreements to recognize the value of allowing agricultural goods and inputs to move freely between the two countries; and be it further

RESOLVED,

that the MLC supports the use of domestic agricultural resources and innovations in both Canada and the United States, including advancements in technology, soil health, sustainable farming practices, and resilient supply chains, to ensure a secure, reliable, and affordable food supply; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MLC urges any future reviews of or changes to the USMCA or other U.S.-Canada trade agreements to continue to recognize the value of having agricultural cooperation between the United States and Canada; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the relevant committees in the U.S. Congress and the Parliament of Canada, to appropriate federal officials and agencies in the United States and Canada, and to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food.