



December 20, 2024

The Honourable Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

**RE: Advocating for Agriculture considering proposed U.S. Tariffs**

Dear Premier Smith,

We are writing to emphasize the vital role agriculture plays in Alberta’s economy and the challenges posed by the anticipated tariffs from President-elect Donald Trump. With Alberta’s strong trade relationships, particularly with the United States, these proposed measures would significantly affect our agricultural producers and the broader provincial economy.

Alberta’s agriculture sector is a cornerstone of the province’s prosperity. Our industry generates billions in revenue annually, employs thousands of Albertans, and supports rural communities across the province. Alberta’s grains, canola, pulses, beef, pork, potatoes, sugar beets, pedigreed seed, honeybee and other agricultural products have positioned Alberta as a leader in food production and value-added processing for export. Alberta agricultural and agri-food exports to the U.S. averaged \$6.3 billion CAD over the past five years ending 2023 (see attached Appendix). The U.S. export market contributes significantly, both directly and indirectly, to farm incomes in the province and any tariffs could have detrimental impacts on approximately 57,000 farmers and farm families in the province.

Proposed tariffs could disrupt this vital economic relationship, diminish market access, and undermine the global competitiveness of Alberta’s producers, with significant economic consequences for our province. However, this will have a marked impact on the U.S. economy as well. Agriculture is equally vital for food affordability, food security and energy security. Free trade will help to keep food inflation in check and promote a biofuels industry by securing investment, generating jobs and promoting rural economic development across North America.

We urge the Government of Alberta to continue to **advocate for free and fair trade for all goods, especially agricultural products**. Collaboration with the federal government and international partners is needed for Alberta’s agriculture-first approach, to minimize the impact of geopolitical tensions on the agricultural sector.

Agriculture has always been at the heart of Alberta’s economic success and cultural identity. As we navigate this period of uncertainty, it is imperative that we take proactive measures to safeguard our producers, promote our agricultural products, and ensure Alberta remains a competitive force on the global stage.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am confident that your leadership, alongside the continued efforts of the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will protect and advance Alberta’s agricultural interests during this challenging time. We would be happy to discuss this issue further or assist in any way possible to support Alberta’s agriculture sector.

Sincerely,



Roger Chevraux  
Chair,  
Alberta Canola  
Producers  
Commission



Brodie Haugan  
Chair,  
Alberta Beef  
Producers



Keith Gregory  
Chair,  
Alberta Cattle Feeders  
Association



Shane Strydhorst  
Chair, Alberta  
Pulse Growers



Stan Vanessen  
Chair,  
Alberta Pork



Alison Davie  
Chair, Potato  
Growers of Alberta



Curtis Miedema  
Chair, Alberta Beekeepers



Tara Sawyer  
Chair, Alberta  
Grains



Brian Ellis  
Chair, Alberta & BC  
Seed Growers



Gary Tokariuk  
Chair, Alberta Sugar Beets  
Growers

Cc: The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

## Appendix

### Agricultural Export Data from Alberta

#### Alberta Agricultural Exports to the U.S. (C\$000s)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	5 Year Average
Field							
Crops <sup>1</sup>	1,103,700	1,273,705	1,666,462	2,319,960	2,980,602	2,433,581	1,868,886
Livestock	829,376	783,938	696,749	930,948	1,100,475	1,248,684	868,297
Meat	1,795,846	1,940,798	2,620,734	2,785,722	3,231,903	2,451,918	2,475,001
Processed							
Foods	399,723	434,195	530,516	668,339	950,349	966,866	596,624
Other	456,531	399,715	435,989	568,210	542,107	439,129	480,510
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,585,175</b>	<b>4,832,352</b>	<b>5,950,449</b>	<b>7,273,178</b>	<b>8,805,435</b>	<b>7,540,177</b>	<b>6,289,318</b>

\*2024 Data is representative from January to October

<sup>1</sup>Primary agricultural exports as well as any exports of value-added products emanating from crop production.

#### Citation for Data:

Statistics Canada. Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2021004-eng.htm>

Accessed date: 2024-12-16