

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2025

The Honorable Howard W. Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to express our profound concern and disappointment over your decision to terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement (TSA) and to impose a 17.09% tariff on imported Mexican tomatoes. For nearly three decades, the TSA has underpinned a framework that supported tens of thousands of American jobs - especially in Texas - ensured fair pricing, and upheld minimum quality standards for consumers. Despite bipartisan appeals from federal and state officials, including Governor Abbott, and a near-unanimous resolution by the Texas legislature urging you to preserve the TSA, your decision has instead placed disproportionate weight on the interests of one state over the well-being of consumers and businesses across the country.

The decision to abandon the TSA has seriously affected Texas families and businesses. The import of Mexican tomatoes contributes more than \$8 billion to the U.S. economy and supports 50,000 jobs, including thousands in Texas. The TSA is essential to the financial viability of hundreds of American businesses, including over 150 in Texas. A group of organizations that represent the business community, from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the Corn Refiners Association to the Pork Producers Association have urged you to maintain the TSA.


The TSA also funded essential inspection operations by the USDA and the Texas Department of Agriculture, employing hundreds of workers and generating nearly \$100 million annually in inspection-related revenue. For five years, Mexican tomatoes underwent mandatory inspections to ensure they met USDA quality standards, protecting consumers and reinforcing public trust in food safety. Without the TSA, this quality safeguard has vanished—disproportionately impacting Texas, through which over half of Mexican tomato imports enter the country via Laredo and Pharr.


American consumers will also bear the brunt of this decision. Economists widely agree that the end of the TSA will raise grocery prices and risk supply shortages. Mexican producers, facing untenable tariff burdens, are likely to reduce output or shift to alternative crops - just as Florida producers, your apparent beneficiaries, have repeatedly demonstrated that they cannot meet national demand on their own. As recently as this year, labor shortages led to Florida growers plowing over unharvested fields, and a salmonella outbreak further strained domestic supply. Extreme weather - whether hurricanes, heatwaves, or early frosts - makes Florida's production unreliable. In such circumstances, Texas families - and families across the country - could find a basic dietary staple missing from their grocery shelves.


This policy shift is particularly perplexing given the TSA's strong record of enforcement and effectiveness. The Department of Commerce and USDA rigorously administered the agreement, issuing over 320 audit questionnaires, reviewing 14,000 certifications, and conducting detailed administrative reviews. USDA inspections since April 2020 had a 99.3% pass rate. As recently as December 2024, Commerce found no evidence of dumping or price suppression by Mexican growers.

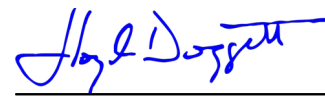
We strongly urge you to reengage in good-faith negotiations and work toward a renewed agreement that preserves the economic, agricultural, and consumer benefits that the TSA has long provided.

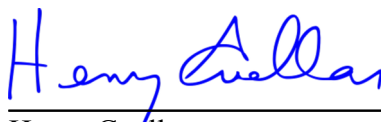
Sincerely,

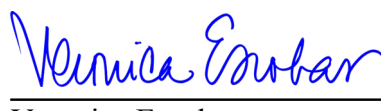

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