



September 17, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As American soybean farmers head into the 2026 harvest season, thank you for your determination to expand and diversify export markets for U.S. farmers. On behalf of the American Soybean Association (ASA), I write to reaffirm our gratitude for the commitments secured last October at the U.S.-China trade summit in Busan, South Korea.

Ahead of your meeting with President Xi in Washington, D.C., we ask that you build on the progress achieved since the Busan summit. As of September 11, ASA estimates 15.5 million metric tons (MMT) of U.S. soybeans have been ordered by Chinese buyers this season, compared to just 3.7 MMT at this time last year. The renewed purchase orders towards China's minimum commitment of at least 25 MMT of U.S. soybeans for this marketing year, as well as in each of the next two years, are certainly welcome news ahead of harvest, but a durable, long-term trade relationship with China will support greater market stability. Support for U.S. farmers and greater market stability with China would be facilitated by the following actions which we hope can be achieved as part of the meeting with President Xi.

First, we are very supportive of your team's proposal to establish a board of trade with China that would help ensure trade in non-sensitive goods continues, even as the U.S. and China deal with more sensitive trade issues. Soybeans need to be included in the list of non-sensitive goods.

Second, China still maintains a 10% retaliatory duty on U.S. soybean imports that does not apply to imports from Brazil or other South American nations. This duty should be eliminated so that U.S. soybeans are not discriminated against and can be purchased by commercial firms, not just Chinese state-owned enterprises.

Third, the one-year suspension of Section 301 port fees applied to Chinese ships is soon set to expire and we are concerned that any future implementation of port fees would be passed down to farmers and cause shipping disruptions, especially as the pause of the Section 301 port fees expires during the primary shipping window to China. We ask that steps be taken to ensure that Section 301 port fees will not disrupt or diminish U.S. export sales.

In summary, soybean farmers ask that you build on the momentum and success of previous meetings with President Xi by ensuring China fulfills its annual purchase commitments, seeking the elimination of tariffs and trade barriers that put U.S. soybeans at a competitive disadvantage to Brazil, and prioritizing a long-term agreement that supports consistency and predictability for U.S. soybean farmers. ASA applauds your commitment to bolstering market demand for U.S. soybeans at home and around the world. U.S. soybean farmers appreciate your attention to the agricultural industry in ongoing trade negotiations. Your efforts benefit not only U.S. soybean producers, but rural America overall. We look forward to additional positive outcomes from the upcoming trade summit with China.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Metzger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Metzger, President
American Soybean Association

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 Mike Crapo, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman, 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, Chairman, United States House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Glen Thompson, Chairman, United States House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Angie Craig, Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Agriculture