



ENHANCE POTATO EXPORT SUCCESS IN FUTURE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

ACTION REQUESTED

NPC strongly encourages Congress and the Administration to work together to negotiate and approve new bilateral or multilateral trade agreements to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers and to strongly enforce existing trade agreements and commitments.

The potato industry is one of the most successful commodities in terms of overall level of exports and rate of export growth. These gains are the product of careful bilateral and regional negotiations and enforcement actions conducted over many decades. Continued growth and success should be built upon when modifying current agreements or negotiating new agreements.

Potato exports total \$1.77 billion worldwide and generate substantial additional benefits for the American economy. Currently, Japan is the largest export market at 19%, with Canada second at 18% and Mexico third with 14%. Canada and Mexico are parties to both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. Japan is party to TPP. The permanent withdrawal of the U.S. from trade agreements with these countries will jeopardize the benefits that have been negotiated for the U.S. potato industry and negatively impact the economic benefits that these exports currently generate.

The potato industry strongly encourages the Administration and Congress to consider improvements to NAFTA, TPP and other bilateral or regional agreements through continued direct engagement with our trading partners.

Reduction of phytosanitary barriers and adherence to principles of sound science should be a priority for any existing or future agreements. The initiation of new trade negotiations with countries we currently do not have agreements with should also be a priority.

National Potato Council

1300 L Street, NW, Suite 910
Washington, D.C. 20005

202.682.9456
www.NationalPotatoCouncil.org