



AMERICANS FOR FARMERS & FAMILIES

STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS

For Immediate Release:

Joshua Baca

Contact: press@americansforfarmersandfamilies.com

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New Coalition Advocating For North American Free Trade Agreement Modernization Launches Campaign in Iowa *Food & Agriculture Sectors Support Over 750,000 State Jobs & Depend On Trade With Canada & Mexico*

(Des Moines, IA) - The Iowa chapter of Americans for Farmers & Families (AFF), a coalition working to ensure President Donald Trump and congressional leaders understand the importance of preserving and modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to America's agricultural and retail economies, today announced its formation. The local chapter is part of a broad-based national group of **more than 50 organizations** representing growers, refiners, producers, transporters, retailers, and consumers, and aims to undertake a robust educational campaign to highlight the positive impacts of NAFTA to the state and the country.

"NAFTA has helped Iowa and our farmers make a lot of progress in markets in the past couple of decades," said Ed Wiederstein, former president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, Audubon-area farmer and member of AFF. "We should work to build on that success by modernizing this agreement."

In 2016, Iowans exported a total of \$5 billion in food and agricultural products, \$2.5 billion (51 percent) of which went to NAFTA partners.

Since taking effect in 1994, the benefits of NAFTA have spread beyond America's agricultural community, helping grow over 43 million jobs, including more than 750,000 in Iowa. However, it is rural communities that have been among the biggest winners under NAFTA, the very same areas that powered then-candidate Trump's victory in 2016.

Ten percent of all land farmed in the United States produces exports to Canada and

Mexico. These exports have more than quadrupled under the trade agreement and now represent 25 percent of American exports. In addition, NAFTA has benefited all American consumers by helping keep grocery prices down. NAFTA has opened markets to America's farmers, grown domestic jobs and supported \$127 billion in annual economic activity. Under NAFTA, the U.S. food and agriculture industries support more than 43 million jobs throughout the nation.

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