



**AMERICANS FOR  
FARMERS & FAMILIES**  
**STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS**

## Americans For Farmers And Families Talk NAFTA Impact With Missouri Legislators

**(Jefferson City, MO)** - The Missouri chapter of Americans for Farmers & Families (AFF), a coalition over 70 growers, producers, suppliers, transporters, retailers and consumers dedicated to preserving and modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), today joined State Sen. Dan Hegeman and State Rep. Sonya Anderson to discuss their concurrent resolution recently filed in session.

The resolutions, SCR39 and HCR 32, urge Pres. Donald Trump and Congress to protect NAFTA and its vital position in the Missourian economy.

“We feel like in Missouri that President Trump’s intention is turn NAFTA into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century trade agreement and we are confident he can do that” noted former State Legislator Casey Guernsey.

NAFTA’s impact throughout the state has led to strong job growth, higher wages, low consumer prices, and promoted a competitive agricultural and energy export economy. In 2016, exports to free trade agreement markets accounted for 64 percent of all Missouri exports, totaling \$8.9 billion.

Dave Drennan, executive director of the Missouri Dairy Association explained, “Mexico is our number 1 market and Canada is our number 2. It would be a great blow to us if Mexico was no longer our top market.”

In 2016, Missouri’s total food and agricultural exports totaled \$2.2 billion with \$1.4 billion going to NAFTA partners, with top exports including: soybean, corn, rice and meat such as beef and pork.

“It is estimated that the pork industry would need to reduce production by 5 percent in the United States,” stated Scott Hays of Monroe City and member of the

Missouri Pork Association, if the U.S. left the lucrative trade agreement. “[It] probably wouldn’t be out of the question to see \$10 or \$12 bacon,” continued Hays.

In Missouri, the agriculture industry directly and indirectly supports over 956,000 jobs, earning those in the Show-Me State approximately \$39 billion in wages. When looking at the United States as a whole, that number rises to more than 43 million jobs and boosts the U.S. economy by \$127 billion each year.

“Agriculture is a shining star when it comes to American trade and that shouldn’t be forgotten” explained Shane Kinne, Missouri Corn Growers Association director of public policy.

*For more information on Americans for Farmers & Families, please visit:*  
<https://americansforfarmersandfamilies.com/>

###