



# AMERICANS FOR FARMERS & FAMILIES

**STRONG FARMING MEANS JOBS**

## In Case You Missed It

### Trump Needs To Bring Home A NAFTA Win For PA's Farmers

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With recent talks occurring in Montreal regarding the renegotiating of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, here's to hoping President Trump can strike a suitable deal that sustains the benefits our nation's farmers have earned and deserve.

NAFTA was a bipartisan effort implemented in 1994 to foster stronger trading relations between the U.S., Canada and Mexico to grow exports, raise wages and lower consumer prices.

To date, NAFTA has gone a long way to fulfilling positive economic benefits for American workers and families.

But preserving the benefits NAFTA has gained for America's food and agriculture community with Canada and Mexico is important to that end.

Many of today's agriculture workers, including myself, are still in business thanks to NAFTA. Farmers, ranchers, and everyone in between have benefitted in a multitude of ways, many which may go unnoticed.

But a quick look at the numbers of NAFTA will tell you that this agreement has benefited our industry for more than two decades, even when we don't realize it.

In 2016, Pennsylvania exported \$2.3 billion in food and agriculture products. 60 percent of that, or \$1.3 billion, went to our NAFTA partners.

This source of revenue is pivotal to growing jobs and wages for hard-working Pennsylvania families, and not just within the farming economy.

Our food and agriculture exports help support over 1.5 million Pennsylvania jobs, earning \$69 Billion in wages.

These economic assets aren't just felt by Pennsylvanians but by Americans across the country. Since taking effect, NAFTA has preserved more than 43 million American food and agriculture related jobs, and has generated nearly \$2 trillion in wages for farming and agriculture workers nationwide.

Maintaining a good relationship with Mexico and Canada is crucial to sustaining the \$43 billion worth of American-grown food and agricultural products we send to Canada and Mexico, and under NAFTA, exports from American farms to our neighboring countries increased by 450 percent since the agreement's implementation.

From its exports of machinery, plastics, medical components to candy, Pennsylvania would get hit hard if NAFTA is scrapped.

That's why it is important to modernize NAFTA - not rip it apart.

Recently, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue commented that "NAFTA needs to be modernized, like anything 25 years ago, but we think it would be bad policy if we withdrew." I wholly agree and support an agreement that upholds the gains in food and agriculture related incomes and jobs for the next generation of farmers.

Strengthening NAFTA to better benefit Americans isn't just a political issue to me--it's a personal one.

My family depends on me to put food on the table, and the rest of our country relies on a huge network of dedicated and hardworking farmers and agricultural workers to do the same. Maintaining NAFTA, and better yet, modernizing it, will allow farmers like me to better serve the American people in the best way I know how.

American farmers are often said to be the backbone of this country, but we were also critical to the president's electoral victory and remain a loyal base of support.

That is why it is so important for Trump to remember the hard-working farmers who rely on his negotiating skills to bring home a NAFTA win that will safeguard the agriculture economy for my children and generations to come.

Farming and agriculture is a rewarding business, but an uncertain one at times. We may not be able to increase demand, and we certainly cannot change the weather, but one thing that can be done to protect our industry is by cultivating a favorable agriculture and food export environment that will pay dividends for Pennsylvanian farmers and consumers for decades to come.

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To access the op-ed, click [here](#).

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