

July 25, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our continued concern regarding skyrocketing fertilizer prices. Inflation, supply chain interruptions, protectionist trade practices and geopolitical disputes have led to increased prices of food, commodities and fuel. Farm supply costs have drastically increased in the past year with American farmers witnessing fertilizer prices rise over 300% in some instances. To date, six types of fertilizers hit all-time price highs in early 2022, and the exorbitant costs could soon limit agricultural production. We encourage you to utilize the tools available to you to mitigate the impact of rising input costs, including emergency action to remove tariffs.

Tariffs imposed on phosphate fertilizers from Morocco in 2021 have had a significant negative financial impact on America's farmers and ranchers. Without question, global factors such as natural gas costs, Belarus' potassium potash shortage, China's cessation of fertilizer exports and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have all had profoundly shaken the fertilizer market. Federal actions to impose price-inflating tariffs has further compounded these factors,

We believe in utilizing the process set forth by the International Trade Commission to impose tariffs when foreign actors are harming American companies and/or consumers. However, the current economic and geopolitical landscape is drastically different than what American fertilizer companies were experiencing when they petitioned for countervailing duties. We applaud the USITC's recent negative determination in the similar case of requested antidumping and countervailing duties on urea ammonium nitrate solutions from Russia and Trinidad and Tobago. It is clear to America's farmers and ranchers that the existing tariffs on fertilizer are not helping Americans, but rather harming them. Taxing fertilizer makes it more difficult to affordably access crucial nutrients at a time when America's farmers are being called on to meet growing demands here and abroad.

We strongly encourage the White House to eliminate or reduce fertilizer tariffs. Doing so would make fertilizer more accessible and help American farmers combat global food insecurity.

American farmers are resilient and will rise to the occasion to grow and deliver food to a growing population if they can operate on a level playing field. We urge the Administration to find solutions to these rising fertilizer costs to help America's farmers feed our neighbors, here and abroad.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
National Corn Growers Association

CC:

The Hon. Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Hon. Gina Raimondo, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce