

CYNTHIA AXNE  
3RD DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,  
AND CAPITAL MARKETS  
HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND INSURANCE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515**

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September 13, 2019

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
c/o Daniel Heady  
5400 University Ave  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

The Greater Des Moines Partnership  
c/o Jay Byers  
700 Locust St, Ste 100  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Craig Hill and Eugene T. Meyer,

Thank you for your letter urging support for USMCA and your shared commitment to creating jobs and driving economic growth in Iowa.

As you know, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) delivered the USMCA working document in July. Contrary to some news reports, Congress is not withholding a vote. Rather, the House USMCA Working Groups are working with USTR to move the agreement forward. I want to make sure USMCA works for Iowans – including our agricultural producers, manufacturers and business owners. I am carefully following updates both in Iowa and in Washington.

I visited every county in Iowa's Third District in August, and I was grateful for the opportunity to hear from Iowans. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, I met with Iowa Farm Bureau members who expressed the importance of USMCA in providing certainty and stability for our agricultural producers. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, I held a roundtable discussion with USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey and Iowa agricultural leaders to discuss progress on USMCA and other vital issues impacting Iowa's agricultural economy.

In Washington, I've met with our farmers, producers and manufacturers who have expressed support of the agreement. I also met with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and expressed the urgency of passing USMCA for Iowans. Democrats and Republicans are working together to move USMCA forward, and I am very happy with where agreement language is from an agriculture and manufacturing perspective.

There are provisions within USMCA that are still being resolved. Specifically, there is a provision dealing with the price of pharmaceuticals as well as a provision on labor standard protections that the House Working Groups are currently negotiating. We have an opportunity to ensure better enforcement standards that don't undercut U.S. jobs and wages, and I'm optimistic that we can see improved standards in USMCA than we've had under NAFTA. Additionally, I've been concerned about the rising cost of prescription drugs, and I believe that we can find a better deal under USMCA to help reduce the cost of

biologic prescription drugs. I am confident that negotiators will be able to work out remaining issues in USMCA to protect businesses and families in Iowa.

I understand the importance of USMCA to our businesses, farmers and families in Iowa. I believe Congress can continue its positive momentum and reach an agreement that resolves current issues, ends uncertainty, and provides Iowa the keys to continued growth and success.

Sincerely,



Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

cc:

Iowa Association of Business and Industry  
21st Century Rehab, P.C.  
ADM  
Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Amana Farms  
Amana Society  
America's Cultivation Corridor  
Ames Chamber of Commerce  
Archer Coop Grain Company  
Bank Iowa  
Bankers Advertising Company  
Bayer Crop Science  
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust  
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance  
Champion Seeds  
CHS  
City of Indianola  
City of Urbandale  
Civco Medical Solutions  
Collins Aerospace  
Corteva Agriscience  
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Dunkerton Cooperative Elevator  
Easterseals  
Fareway Stores, Inc.  
Farmers State Bank  
Fertilizer Dealer Supply  
First National Bank  
General Mills  
Green Plains Inc  
Grimes Chamber & Economic Development