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Anniversary Marks Continued Inaction at Expense of U.S. Jobs
Coalition Continues to Urge Administration, Congress to End \$2.4 Billion Dispute with Mexico

March 9, 2010/Washington, DC: One year after Congress brought a cross-border trucking program to an abrupt halt, the Alliance to Keep U.S. Jobs continues to press the Obama administration and Congress to resolve the ongoing dispute that hit U.S. sales of some \$2.4 billion worth of manufactured and agricultural products bound for Mexico.

On March 10, 2009, Congress effectively ended a program that implemented a fifteen year-old U.S. commitment to Mexico through the North American Free Trade Agreement. While the congressional action expired late last year, the administration has taken no steps to end the dispute. Meanwhile, U.S. industries ranging from cherry farmers to carbonless paper manufacturers remain innocent bystanders to the dispute. Businesses and workers in these sectors continue to pay the price in terms of sales and jobs lost to tariffs imposed by Mexico.

“Manufacturing in nearly every state in America has been impacted by these tariffs,” said Doug Goudie, director of International Trade Policy for the [National Association of Manufacturers](#). “Production lines have been shut down, factories have closed, and jobs have been lost. Small and medium exporters – who make up over 95% of all exports to Mexico – have been particularly hard hit.”

“In keeping with the President’s goal, we’d like to double U.S. exports, not see them cut in half,” said the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Vice President of International Policy John Murphy, referring to the decline in some U.S. exports hit by Mexican tariffs. [A recent Chamber study](#) showed that the U.S. failure to meet its commitment to Mexico will cost an estimated 25,000 American jobs.

“Mexico is eating Canadian potatoes, and Canadians are eating our lunch,” said John Keeling, executive vice president and CEO of the National Potato Council. “U.S. potato exports to Mexico have been cut in half as a result of this dispute. Meanwhile Canada’s exports have grown by an equal amount.”

For more information on the Alliance and its members, please visit the website at www.KeepUSJobs.org

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