



Contact: Steve Mulder
(202) 280-1962
smulder@vennstrategies.com

**Alliance to Keep U.S. Jobs Applaud Western Agriculture Officials' Call to Resolve
Cross-Border Trucking Dispute with Mexico**
*Multiple State Agriculture Officials call on President Obama to resolve Mexican
trade dispute "without further delay"*

September 17, 2009/Washington, DC: More than 150 U.S. manufacturers, companies and agricultural interests today applauded the leadership of numerous State agriculture officials in calling on the President to immediately implement a cross-border trucking program with Mexico. In a recent letter to President Obama, the top Agriculture officials of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming and Nevada wrote: "We ... strongly urge you to resolve the NAFTA Mexican trucking dispute without further delay."

Mark Powers, Vice President of the Northwest Horticulture Council, thanked the State agriculture leaders for their efforts to bring this grave situation to the attention of the highest levels of the Government. "On behalf of many of the most impacted agricultural producers, including 1600 pear growers in Washington and Oregon, I applaud the leadership of these key State officials and strongly echo their call for immediate action to resolve this situation so these devastating tariffs can be removed," said Powers.

The letter described the damage the U.S. failure is having on U.S. agricultural producers: "We noted an immediate decline in exports when the tariffs were imposed." These State agricultural leaders warned of dire consequences of further inaction: "... our competitors have been expanding their market share at the expense of our growers and processors. This trend could have significant long-term impact. ... there is little hope that U.S. agricultural producers will quickly recoup their lost market share once the trucking issue is resolved..." stated the letter.

"We applaud the unequivocal language of the letter to the President by these important leaders of America's agricultural community and urge the Administration and Congress to act now," said Alliance spokesman Steve Mulder. "These leaders are seeing first hand the damaging impact that continued failure of the United States to resolve this issue is having in many States – in terms of lost job, exports and market share. As the letter correctly noted, once these American jobs are gone, they may be gone forever," according to Mulder.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance to Keep US Jobs is a coalition of 150 U.S. companies and associations that are concerned about the adverse impact to the U.S. economy stemming from a failure to resolve the longstanding trucking dispute. Members of the Alliance represent many thousands of U.S. workers that are employed by companies and industries that are subject to tariffs on their products shipped to Mexico.

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