Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to you to express our concern over the dramatic rise in the cost of fertilizer and to request that the Administration take steps to address this immediately.

Across the country, farmers are in dire economic straits because of high input costs, low commodity prices and limited market access caused by this Administration's ill-timed tariffs and ill-informed trade policy. Now, when so many farmers are already being crushed by the weight of high input prices, this Administration's war with Iran has caused fertilizer prices to increase exponentially. Countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar are crucial suppliers of urea, anhydrous ammonia, along with other necessary inputs for fertilizer production and they cannot transport products through the Strait of Hormuz because of the war. It has become increasingly clear that the Administration decided to initiate hostilities without considering the obviously foreseeable consequences this would have upon American agriculture and the global economy.

For our country's farmers, the timing could not be worse. Farmers are in the early stages of planting season, and while some farmers may have locked in prices just before the war, others will be left paying untenable prices. The abrupt start of this war without the necessary planning for the economic fallout has left farmers, and all Americans, in a precarious position.

Since the war began, we've seen fertilizer prices soar with no clear offramp. Other important inputs like diesel fuel have also risen dramatically. With the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf nations have been unable to transport products from the Gulf to the rest of world. If the Strait remains closed, not only will it prevent fertilizer from leaving the region in the immediate future, it will create downstream consequences that will be felt after the Strait reopens.

Fertilizer production facilities in the region have already begun to shut down because they are under attack or have exceeded their storage capacity. With this loss of production, the supply side pressure will push prices up even further as nations that are dependent on supply from the Gulf seek alternate sources. Even if the Strait reopens, it will take weeks to bring the plants back online and get them running efficiently. Plants that are damaged will need to be repaired. Ports will have to catch up on loading ships, leading to a backlog and prolonged supply chain slowdown. It could be months before supply chains normalize. Additionally, the disruption of liquified natural gas (LNG) exports from the Gulf means that countries outside the region that have fertilizer production capacity but are dependent on LNG imports or other precursors from the region will be unable to convert that LNG into ammonia, further constricting fertilizer supply. Through all of this, farmers will be forced to either pay higher prices for fertilizer that they need or go with less and risk low production yields; either way their tight margins—already in the red for many farmers—will only worsen.

It is clear that the pressure on fertilizer markets will not subside until safe passage through the Strait is restored, but that may take some time given Iran's strategic location and its well documented ability and playbook of holding shipping in the region hostage. Given that the President created this situation, we believe it is incumbent upon USDA and the broader Administration to present to our nation's farmers an actionable plan to stabilize fertilizer prices. As members of the House Agriculture Committee, we request the following:

1. A public action plan for how the administration will reduce fertilizer prices and stabilize markets.
2. An examination of how existing tariffs can be suspended or reduced to ease fertilizer prices.
3. An estimate of the increase in costs to farmers because of higher diesel and fertilizer prices since the onset of the war.

Sincerely,

Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture

Shontel M. Brown
Vice Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture

David Scott
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
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Andrea Salinas
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Jill Tokuda
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Eugene Simon Vindman
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John W. Mannion
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April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress