DONALD G. DAVIS
FIRST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Agriculture is the economic backbone of eastern North Carolina, and our soybean growers stand at the front lines of global trade policy. As you prepare for your planned meeting with President Xi Jinping on September 24, economic pressures facing soybean producers in our region are real, and securing reliable access to Chinese markets for American agricultural products is critical.

I welcome recent reports that Chinese state-owned enterprises are believed to have announced new purchases of approximately 1 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans. While this purchase provides a timely signal of market activity ahead of the autumn harvest, it must be viewed with measured caution. China's purchases to date are approaching half of its 25-million-metric-ton annual commitment for 2026, with more recently reported purchases representing further progress toward that target. For long-term economic stability, our producers require consistent, predictable commercial demand rather than sporadic state-owned enterprise purchases.

Eastern North Carolina's farmers continue to face significant economic pressures. Over the past several seasons, global trade disruptions and retaliatory tariffs have disrupted markets and placed additional pressure on producers. At the same time, producers continue to confront high costs for machinery, replacement parts, fuel, fertilizer, and other essential inputs.

North Carolina's integrated agricultural economy provides our producers with an important advantage. A substantial share of the soybeans grown in our state supports our vital poultry and swine industries. North Carolina is also the third most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, producing more than 150 commodities, and the breadth of what we grow makes reliable access to export markets essential across our entire farm economy. Even so, losing China's market, or a significant share of it, would be particularly harmful, further straining an industry already facing pressure on many fronts.

Relatedly, the increasing competition American producers face from South America is acutely concerning. Continued uncertainty in U.S.-China trade has encouraged Chinese buyers to rely more heavily on Brazil and other suppliers. According to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Brazil sent record volumes of soybeans to China from June through August 2026. China also recorded record soybean imports in June, driven largely by strong Brazilian supplies. These developments underscore the need for sustained demand that allows American producers to compete effectively for and protect their share of the global soybean market.

As you prepare for your planned summit with President Xi Jinping on September 24, I respectfully ask you to insist on a verifiable, structured timeline for China to fulfill its annual 25-million-metric-ton soybean purchasing commitment for 2026 and its subsequent annual commitments through 2028.

I further urge you to press for the removal of China's additional 10 percent tariff on U.S. soybeans, which has discouraged Chinese commercial buyers from purchasing American soybeans and contributed to their reliance on South American suppliers. Chinese state-owned enterprises have continued to purchase U.S. soybeans following the agreement announced by your administration. Still, these purchases are not a substitute for sustained access to China's broader commercial market.

A stable and mutually beneficial trade relationship requires sustained commercial market access and greater certainty for American agriculture. Farmers have made clear to me they would rather compete in the global marketplace than depend on emergency assistance resulting from trade disruptions. With fair, predictable terms, they can compete with producers anywhere in the world.

Steady diplomatic engagement at this meeting will be vital to restoring confidence for farmers, lenders, agribusinesses, and rural communities across North Carolina and the United States. Thank you for your continued attention to the livelihood of American producers. I look forward to working with your administration to strengthen agricultural markets and support farm families throughout eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress