Meat Institute
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Testimony of

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Agricultural Perspectives on the Future of the USMCA

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Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on behalf of the Meat Institute.

I am honored to participate in this important hearing to underscore the U.S. meat industry's support for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA or the Agreement), and to respectfully request that members of this Committee work in consultation with the Trump Administration to preserve the Agreement's benefits for American agriculture.

The Meat Institute is the United States' oldest and largest trade association representing packers and processors of beef, pork, lamb, veal, and processed meat products, and Meat Institute member companies account for more than 95 percent of U.S. output of these products. The Meat Institute provides legislative, regulatory, international affairs, public relations, technical, scientific, and educational services to the meat and poultry packing and processing industry.

The U.S. meat and poultry industry is the economic engine powering the agriculture sector. According to a 2025 analysis, the meat and poultry processing industry contributes $57.3 billion in value added, nearly 584,000 jobs, $40.6 billion in labor income, $311.0 billion in total sales (output), and $12.5 billion in local, state, and federal taxes to the national economy.[1]

Through indirect and induced effects, the meat and poultry processing industry generates significant economic activity in other industries, including livestock and poultry production, animal feed manufacturing, grain and oilseed production, truck and rail transportation, equipment manufacturing, and other sectors. When these indirect and induced effects are incorporated into the analysis, the total economic contribution of the U.S. meat and poultry processing industry is $347.7 billion in value added, more than 3.2 million jobs, $205.3 billion in labor income, $911.7 billion in total sales (output), and $77.0 billion in local, state, and federal taxes[2]. Based on USDA Economic Research Service trade multipliers, U.S. meat and poultry exports contribute additional export activity of more than $44 billion, supporting American workers, farm communities, producers, and companies along the meat and poultry supply chain.[3]

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[1] "Industry at a Glance," Meat Institute, accessed September 26, 2025, https://www.meatinstitute.org/Industry_at_a_Glance
[2] Ibid.
[3] "Agricultural Trade Multipliers," USDA Economic Research Service, USDA, updated July 2, 2025, https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/agricultural-trade-multipliers

The domestic U.S. meat and poultry industry's long-term economic viability, though, depends on robust international trade, particularly as domestic per capita consumption of meat and poultry remains stable, and 95 percent of consumers live outside the United States. International trade is, therefore, vital to the long-term strength of the U.S. meat and poultry industry, the American workers it supports, and the rural and farm communities it sustains. In 2025, U.S. meat and poultry exports exceeded $23 billion; meat and poultry product exports to Canada and Mexico accounted for $8 billion of that total.[4] Annually, approximately 14% of U.S. beef production, 15% of U.S. poultry production, and 25% of U.S. pork production are exported. According to a 2022 report published by the Economic Research Service, U.S. agricultural exports support 86,127 jobs in the beef industry, 52,999 jobs in the pork industry, and 45,855 jobs in the poultry industry.[5]

Exports add value to every animal produced and in turn increase demand for U.S. corn and soybeans. For example, on average, pork exports contribute $65 in value to each hog that is marketed in the U.S. and U.S. beef exports yield approximately $400 in value per head of cattle. Consequently, the resilience of the U.S. meat and poultry industry is inextricably linked to U.S. trade policy and attendant initiatives that foster U.S. meat and poultry export growth.

The negotiation of USMCA resulted in the world's gold-standard trade agreement, and it has advanced U.S. meat, poultry, food, and agriculture trade in a manner that revitalizes American farm communities and supports broad-based economic growth. In addition to bolstering U.S. meat, poultry, and livestock trade, USMCA has led to increased market integration in North America, and must be preserved without significant changes that would disrupt the U.S. meat and poultry industry's substantial access to the Canadian and Mexican markets. This is especially important as farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and packers face higher input costs and market volatility.

The North American meat and poultry industry is among the most integrated supply chains globally, with regional cross-border trade in livestock and meat and poultry products exceeding $16 billion annually.[6] This integration supports American businesses, rural and agricultural communities, and American workers, boosts U.S. economic growth, stabilizes food prices, and strengthens American supply chains against shocks from less predictable, more adversarial trading partners. American farmers, ranchers, food and agricultural producers, and meat and poultry companies have built resilient supply chains to serve reliable consumers and customers across North America. Without USMCA's ambitious elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, American food and agricultural producers would be subject to less favorable terms that could displace our high-value, high-quality products in the face of fierce competition from the European Union (EU), Brazil, and China. USMCA ensures the U.S. upholds, rather than abdicates, its unrivaled leadership role within North America.

The Meat Institute supports the USMCA's continuation for another 16-year term, per the agreement's review procedures. Emerging trade irritants and barriers can be resolved using consultative mechanisms in the agreement or through other available bilateral and trilateral means. Avoiding a disruptive renegotiation is vital to preserving the predictability USMCA affords to American businesses and ensures its benefits will continue to reach American food and agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers, and meat and poultry companies. The ensuing testimony offers clear reasons for renewing the agreement with minimal revisions.

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[4] "GATS Home," USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, accessed February 2026, https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx

[5] Monica Cordero, "Graphic: US agricultural exports support 1.25 million jobs," Investigate Midwest, November 6, 2024, https://investigatemidwest.org/2024/11/06/graphic-us-agricultural-exports-support-1-25-million-jobs/

[6] "GATS Home," USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, accessed February 2026, https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx

USMCA Advances American Economic Prosperity

The USMCA is the American meat and poultry industry's indispensable trade agreement, affirming preferential access to two of the U.S.'s largest export markets for meat, poultry, and livestock products, delivering stability and predictability to American farmers, ranchers, and processors, and supporting hundreds of thousands of American jobs and businesses across the rural economy that depend on robust regional trade to remain operational and sustain livelihoods.

In 2025, Canada was the U.S.'s fourth largest export market for beef ($874 million), by value, the fourth largest value market for U.S. pork exports ($759 million), and the second largest value market for U.S. poultry exports ($611 million).[7] Importantly, Canada is the top market for U.S. processed pork products, like bacon, ham, and sausages, which boost the U.S. pork industry's revenue, while offering protection against volatile demand for these products in markets like China and Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Mexico was the U.S.'s third largest beef ($1.3 billion) export market by value, and the top value destination for U.S. pork ($2.9 billion) and poultry ($1.5 billion) exports in 2025.[8] Significantly, Mexico is a key market for U.S. beef and pork variety meat exports – products that find stronger prices and consumer demand outside the U.S.– including tripe, lips, hearts, jowls, and intestines. Furthermore, increases in U.S. pork variety meat exports, like stomach and intestines, to Mexico have offset losses to other markets, like China, in recent years, underscoring Mexico's status as a reliable trading partner, whose consumer demand for variety meats helps maximize carcass value for American cattle and hog producers, particularly as U.S. consumer demand for these types products lags.

The value of the Canadian and Mexican markets for U.S. meat exports, and in turn, the American farm economy, cannot be overstated. U.S. pork exports to Canada and Mexico in 2025 added approximately $28 in value per hog slaughtered. That accounts for 43% of the total $65.47 per head U.S. pork exports yielded in 2025. Beef export value per fed head slaughtered in 2025 averaged $91, or 23% of the total per fed head export value of $391.94. These values are not only signs of the substantial economic importance of Canada and Mexico for American ranchers, farmers, and meat exporters, but they will also grow more significant as meat and poultry access to China becomes increasingly precarious.

Although the U.S. imports more livestock than we export to supplement the domestic herd, American farmers and ranchers have availed themselves of the favorable terms established in USMCA, with Canada and Mexico consistently ranking as the top markets for U.S. live animal exports. In 2025, the U.S. exported 492,214 and 11,110 head of cattle to Canada and Mexico, respectively, with combined exports to these markets accounting for 92 percent of total U.S. live cattle exports. Furthermore, U.S. live hog exports to Mexico and Canada reached 57,270 and 6,929, respectively, in 2025.

These aforementioned figures would not be possible without USMCA, not only because the agreement provides duty-free and preferential access for American beef, pork, poultry, and livestock products, but also because it has substantially streamlined customs procedures, burdensome regulations, and other barriers that decimate businesses and stifle growth.

Moreover, American farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and meat and poultry companies rely on imports of meat and livestock from Canada and Mexico to complement domestic meat and poultry production, stabilize food prices, support American manufacturing jobs, and meet consumer preferences. Specifically, Canada and

[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.

Mexico are the U.S.'s top two cattle suppliers. The importance of imported livestock rises when the U.S. herd is low, and American beef and pork processing plants, particularly smaller- and medium-sized establishments, need a consistent, stable supply of imported livestock to remain operational. No other countries have the capacity to economically and logistically fill critical livestock supply gaps.

Although imports from Mexico declined in 2025 due to the ongoing border closure stemming from the presence of New World Screwworm in the Mexican herd, the preponderance of imports from Mexico are typically lighter-weight cattle intended for stocker or feeder operations in the U.S. More than 60% of imported cattle from Canada are destined for immediate slaughter at U.S. facilities. Since 2014 (not including 2025), the average number of imported live cattle from Mexico and Canada has exceeded 1.94 million head per year, of which, on average, 537,978 cattle are intended for immediate slaughter, with 14,166 cattle reserved for breeding, and the balance of 1,388,412 cattle destined for feed yards.[9] These cattle do not displace or undermine American-born cattle, but rather serve to expand American beef production to ensure domestic consumers have a steady supply of competitively priced, high-quality beef, American farmers and ranchers earn more to support their operations, and U.S. meat and poultry exporters are more competitive in global markets. The complimentary, revenue-generating nature of these cattle imports is evidenced by the fact that in 2023, with an average fed cattle price of $174.71 per hundredweight that year, imports from Canada and Mexico generated more than $3.39 billion for American cattle producers and meat and poultry companies.[10] Plus, in 2025, the U.S. imported 6,989,605 live hogs from Canada, mostly as feeders to be finished and sold as market hogs.

The economic gains for the U.S. farm economy stemming from Canadian and Mexican live cattle imports were not reserved only for the meat sector. Based on an average slaughter weight of 1,368 pounds and an average dressed weight of 825 pounds in 2023, cattle from USMCA partners each would have consumed an average of 35.91 bushels of corn and 0.66 tons of dried distillers grain with solubles (DDGS), totaling 50,956,075 bushels of U.S. corn and 923,287 tons of U.S. DDGS in American feedlots. That translates to more than $303 million in additional U.S. corn consumption and $202 million in additional U.S. DDGS consumption.[11]

Additionally, Canada and Mexico are two of the largest suppliers of beef to the U.S., with value exceeding $2.8 billion and $2.1 billion, respectively, in 2025. Canada is the largest exporter of both pork ($1.1 billion) and poultry ($576 million) products, by value, to the U.S., whereas Mexico is the U.S.'s third largest supplier of both pork ($222 million) and poultry ($46.8 million) products by value.[12] Because U.S. beef production is cyclical, partly due to drought and related impacts on pasture availability and feed costs, the American beef industry relies on imports to maintain its abundant beef supply to satisfy increasing domestic demand while the U.S. herd rebuilds. Imported beef is generally leaner than U.S. grain-fed beef, and consists primarily of frozen, boneless, manufacturing beef that enters channels for further processing. Imported beef is commonly mixed with high-fat trimmings from U.S. grain-fed cattle production to produce ground beef, hamburgers, hot dogs, meatballs and other manufactured items for food service and retail stores. These items are highly valued by consumers, and imported products from our USMCA partners help stabilize consumer prices, while minimizing pressure for U.S. meat and poultry packers and processors of all sizes, whose supply chains rely on a mixture of imported and domestically-sourced products to meet U.S. customer and consumer demand.

It is clear that USMCA's access terms – zero tariffs on most meat, poultry, and livestock trade – have underpinned American economic and job growth, particularly in rural and farm communities across the U.S. Trade in North American meat, poultry, and livestock products creates jobs and supports development in the American feed,

[9] Ibid.
[10] Data extracted and analyzed from USDA Economic Research Service, https://www.ers.usda.gov/
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.

transportation, processing, retail, and food service sectors, to name a few, with significant economic activity and investment for rural communities along the U.S.'s northern and southern borders. American truck drivers, rail operators, and logistics companies are all beneficiaries of the trade that has flourished under USMCA, with many of those jobs entirely dependent on continued, robust cross-border trade.

In border states, for example, Canadian and Mexican inputs are part of local and regional food systems, and this integration ensures American companies are capable of withstanding animal disease outbreaks, cyclical regional depressions in livestock availability, and natural disasters or other weather events that could severely impair domestic food and agriculture production in these areas. USMCA's favorable terms for American companies sourcing products from North America ensure American businesses and farmers stay afloat, while concurrently mitigating impacts on American food and agricultural output. American agricultural exporters, in turn, benefit from the fact that 90 percent of the Canadian population – more than 37 million people – lives within a two-hour drive of the U.S. border. This proximity reduces transportation costs thereby enabling lucrative returns for American meat and poultry products in a culturally and economically similar market. Meanwhile, Mexico's growing population, rising middle class, and appetite for variety meats and offal not commonly consumed domestically safeguards the resilience of American meat and poultry trade against unpredictable regulatory barriers in other markets, while maximizing returns for American producers who enjoy a nearby destination for products that might otherwise be discarded or rendered for cents on the dollar.

Maintaining this robust U.S. meat trade with Canada and Mexico is crucial to reclaiming America's agricultural trade surplus. Walking away from or significantly undermining the Agreement would drive up the trade deficit, depress wages, spur increased processing capacity in Canada and Mexico to the detriment of U.S. producers, and raise costs for American consumers.

USMCA Reinforces American National Security

Additionally, renewing USMCA is a national security imperative. For one, the integrated supply chains across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada reduce dependence on adversarial countries for critical goods, including food and agricultural inputs, while also providing stable markets for American products when other countries renege on their trade commitments and obligations. For instance, China's pernicious suspension of American meat establishments over unjustified ractopamine and melengestrol acetate concerns, only reinforces the need to preserve and renew USMCA, not only because the agreement includes mechanisms to address and enforce behavior inconsistent with its provisions, but also because North America, led by the U.S., serves as a key economic and strategic counterweight to China's influence. By securing trade within North America, USMCA has made the U.S. less vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions that could threaten our own economic and security interests, including our food supply. In short, trade with Canada and Mexico is not antithetical to American food and agricultural production and security, it is essential to sustain its strength.

The unparalleled, rules-based trading network that USMCA has established, which will be discussed at length in the next section of this testimony, is necessary to constrain the influence of authoritarian countries, like China and Russia, and economic competitors, like Brazil and the EU, that use trade and investment to wield power and expand their geopolitical leverage. For example, the EU has trade agreements with both Canada and Mexico. The Canada European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement provides the EU duty-free access to Canada for pork, beef, and prepared meats, whereas the modernized Global Agreement with Mexico grants EU exporters tariff-free quotas for products such as pork loin, beef, and poultry legs. The EU's shirking of science- and risk-based trade is incongruous with North American agricultural production values and standards, and cannot be permitted to proliferate.

Even with these agreements in place, Canada and Mexico source meat, poultry, and live animals primarily from the U.S. thanks to our complimentary, integrated industries, and the significant investments both countries have made to maintain this trade fluidity with American farmers and ranchers. Preserving the USMCA will prevent the EU from gaining a stronger foothold in our neighbors' markets and will inhibit their ability to evangelize America's top trading partners to their protectionist regulatory requirements that have undermined U.S. exports in global markets. Similarly, Brazil has increased their beef and poultry exports to Mexico, and is now Mexico's second largest beef supplier after the U.S. Consequently, USMCA's extension in its current form will unquestionably secure America's position as the leading economic power and agricultural supplier in Canada and Mexico, by squeezing the ability of China and America's leading agricultural trade competitors to siphon off market share that has been cultivated for decades by American farmers and ranchers.

<u>USMCA is the World's Gold Standard Trade Agreement</u>

Since its entry-into-force, USMCA has advanced critical science- and risk-based sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) principles, enshrined robust consultative and dispute settlement provisions, and secured binding access commitments that ensure a level playing field for American farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and meat and poultry companies.

The USMCA requires Canada and Mexico to employ science- and risk-based SPS analyses, measures, and certification and demands implementation of improved audit procedures, import checks, equivalence assessments, and transparency measures to facilitate and increase the predictability of trade across North America. Likewise, improvements to disciplines on technical barriers to trade (TBT), including strengthened alignment on standards and regulations, make it easier for American meat and poultry exporters to ship products within the USMCA region. Often, American farmers, ranchers, and meat and poultry packers and processors are subject to excessive documentation requirements, onerous audit processes, unfounded animal health and production attestations on export certificates, and unwarranted, nontransparent testing and residue requirements, particularly in markets in Asia, South America, and Europe. These requirements, while lacking in scientific rigor, succeed in undercutting American export potential to high-value, growing markets, most frequently disadvantaging America's agriculture sector. These challenges are compounded by the proclivity of an increasing number of trading partners to disregard the U.S. Department of Agriculture's oversight of America's food safety system and instead institute cumbersome plant and product registration processes that further restrict the export potential of America's agricultural producers and companies.

The USMCA's SPS chapter, on the other hand, ensures that in North America, U.S. exports and American businesses face the fewest regulatory impediments and enjoy the most unfettered access to the Canadian and Mexican markets. Importantly, USMCA's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Article 9.17) preserves this incomparable level of access for America's agriculture sector, by identifying, prioritizing, managing, and resolving bilateral and trilateral SPS issues to guarantee compliance with USMCA's provisions, while SPS Technical Working Groups (Article 9.18) are permitted to convene to address trade irritants. Similarly, the Agreement's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (Article 11.11) bolsters regulatory convergence and ameliorates collaboration to mitigate the adoption of trade-inhibiting laws.[13] Without these Committees and strong, binding SPS and TBT chapters, American meat and poultry producers and exporters could, in Canada and Mexico, be subject to the same excessive testing, documentation, and establishment barriers that preclude their access around the world. In short, the Agreement's complimentary and reinforcing SPS and TBT chapters are its crowning achievements.

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[13] "Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada," Office of the United States Trade Representative, last updated July 1, 2020, https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/agreement-between

In addition to securing comprehensive, enforceable SPS and TBT text, USMCA modernized and streamlined trade facilitation procedures, which have appropriately reduced regulatory burdens facing American agricultural producers, businesses, and exporters without risking food safety or the integrity of our stringent import protocols. The Agreement's Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation chapter focuses specifically on standardizing duplicative, discordant customs policies and augmenting regulatory transparency with the intended goal of efficiently and effectively processing imports and exports, while simultaneously establishing a Committee on Trade Facilitation (Article 7.24) to promote ongoing review of customs administration procedures and existing and emerging regulatory constraints.[14]

Finally, in addition to the aforementioned consultative mechanisms, the USMCA institutes multiple tools for addressing issues, resolving disputes, and enforcing trading partner compliance with rendered decisions. For example, a modernized Committee on Agriculture Trade (Article 3.7) provides a platform for parties to discuss technical issues and trade barriers. Meanwhile, the Consultative Committees on Agriculture (Article 3.8), the Working Group for Cooperation on Agricultural Biotechnology (Article 3.16), and the Committee on Good Regulatory Practices (Article 28.18) provide additional avenues for cooperation, collaboration, and resolving trade issues, culminating in a robust chapter on dispute resolution (Chapter 31). Equally as groundbreaking is the Agreement's Chapter on Labor (Chapter 23), which established the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism to penalize companies in Canada and Mexico for employing forced or low-wage labor to the detriment of American workers and companies.[15] These monumental achievements have dissuaded American companies from outsourcing jobs to our North American partners and have enabled American workers to remain competitive with those in Canada and Mexico – this is not the case with trading partners in Asia and other markets, where the lack of strong labor protections disadvantage American businesses and workers and make our products less competitive.

Thanks to the preceding provisions, the American meat and poultry industry faces few trade-restrictive regulatory hindrances when shipping products to Canada and Mexico. When issues do arise, the foregoing consultative and dispute settlement measures are appropriately designed to effectively adjudicate disagreements and – crucially – enforce decisions to guarantee compliance. Other concerns, like labeling issues and rejected or refused shipments, are more aptly handled via close collaboration among technical experts at USMCA food safety agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (Mexico), and through existing forums for cooperation, like the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council, which is empowered to tackle bilateral regulatory constraints. The Administration's implementation of its voluntary "Product of USA" regulation on January 1, 2026, which enforces compliance for USDA-regulated products that bear voluntary U.S.-origin claims before they enter commerce, appropriately advances transparent labeling without adding undue mandatory compliance costs for American meat and poultry producers. The voluntary nature of this regulation also ensures American ranchers, farmers, and meat and poultry companies remain competitive both domestically and in the North American market, whereas compulsory regulations would have the unintended effect of disadvantaging meat produced in America while expanding Canadian and Mexican meat processing capacity. These and other issues do not merit changes to the existing text of the USMCA, nor do they warrant termination or renegotiation of the agreement by any of the three countries. The USMCA's incomparable text is equipped to handle regulatory and legal disputes, as well as existing and potential trade irritants and impediments.

Inclusion of a side letter on common meat names between the U.S. and Mexico and the U.S. and Canada is the principal addition that could benefit U.S. meat and poultry exporters – and it does not require revising or

[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.

reopening the text of the agreement. Similar to the letter signed between the U.S. Trade Representative and Mexico's Secretary of the Economy upon the negotiation of USMCA that preserved market access for U.S. cheeses using common names, Mexico and Canada should sign a side letter presented by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) that affirms both countries' commitment to protect market access for a list of specific common name meat products. This is particularly vital as both countries have formal trade ties with the EU, which has pursued a concerted global campaign to coopt common food and beverage names in trade and economic negotiations. As a template, USTR could use the letter on common meat name products that was negotiated with and signed by the Government of Chile[16]. The Meat Institute supports that letter in its current form and offered guidance to ensure it comprehensively addresses the universe of terms that are at highest risk in global markets. Attempts by the EU to restrict common meat terms that have been in the public domain for decades, if not longer, are anti-competitive and protectionist. Such restrictions cause undue harm to American producers by imposing onerous labeling, rebranding, and associated production costs. These specious policies cannot be permitted to thrive in two of the American meat industry's largest and most reliable export markets. Including letters that prevent such abuses by the EU will allow trade in high-quality, competitive U.S. meat products bearing generic names to continue unabated.

Conclusion: USMCA's Renewal and Preservation Are Critical to U.S. National and Economic Security

By eradicating most tariffs on meat and livestock trade, streamlining regulatory and customs procedures and practices, mitigating and eliminating non-science-based trade impediments, and establishing mechanisms to resolve technical and other trade disputes, USMCA has been essential to the American meat, poultry, and livestock sector's unparalleled position within North America. Preserving the agreement is critical to the U.S. farm economy's future growth. The Meat Institute recognizes that other industries and sectors have legitimate and unresolved concerns, but these matters, along with any outstanding and emerging issues confronting the American meat and poultry industry, can be appropriately addressed by leveraging procedures outlined in the agreement that are designed for those purposes. Resolutions to these concerns must not be contingent upon concessions that would risk the continuation of USMCA. Doing so would imperil American national security and economic prosperity.

As previously discussed, Canada and Mexico are vital markets for U.S. meat, poultry, and livestock products, often claiming the top two spots, reflecting the countries' reliability as consistent importers of American farm exports. The economic significance of the Canadian and Mexican markets for the U.S. meat, poultry, and livestock sector is directly tied to the mostly duty-free, unfettered access American exporters enjoy in the USMCA region. Risking this access would undoubtedly permit other competitors to gain market share in two of the most stable markets for American farmers and ranchers, and would assuredly cause American companies who rely on the additional, predictable revenue generated by trade with Canada and Mexico to shutter. Conversely, preserving USMCA will continue to yield billions in American farm and agricultural income to support rural communities, American businesses, and American workers across the country.

USMCA offers unmatched certainty to American businesses, fosters resilient supply chains and efficiencies, and is inextricably linked to the U.S. government's focus on fortifying domestic food and agriculture production. The agreement encourages significant investments by Canada and Mexico in U.S. infrastructure and trade with both countries supplies American farmers with critical inputs at competitive prices to maintain the U.S.'s status as having the world's most abundant, affordable, high-quality food supply. Strategic trade and economic integration with Canada and Mexico make the U.S. more capable of weathering animal disease outbreaks, cyclical

[16] "U.S. and Chile Sign Exchange of Letters to Protect Market Access for U.S. Cheese and Meat Products in Chile," Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, June 28, 2024, https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2024/june/us-and-chile-sign-exchange-letters-protect-market-access-us-cheese-and-meat-products-chile

depressions in livestock availability, and natural disasters that could impair domestic food and agriculture production, while providing confidence to consumers and customers that the North American market applies the most stringent food safety and public health standards that keep our populations safe and less vulnerable to events in other less predictable, more antagonistic regions.

In short, USMCA has been a boon for the American meat, livestock, and poultry sector, along with the broader American food and agriculture economy and ancillary industries. It has provided steady income to American farmers, ranchers, and meat and poultry exporters; it has created jobs for American truck drivers, ports, and transportation companies; it has buttressed American food retail and food service establishments; and it has accomplished these integral economic achievements through the implementation of transparent rules that allow American businesses to proactively plan supply chains and develop durable customer relationships. No other trade agreement can boast the same success.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of the Meat Institute and stand ready to work with you to support the preservation of the USMCA for the benefit of the U.S. meat industry and the broader American farm economy.