



News Release

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USApple Condemns “Unwarranted, Unfair” Mexican Tariffs on Fresh and Dried Apples

Act of Trade Retaliation Could Impact \$230 Million of Apple Exports to Southern Neighbor

VIENNA, VA – The U.S. Apple Association today condemned the Mexican government’s decision to assess a 20 percent tariff on fresh and dried apples. Apples are the latest produce item to be added to a “retaliation list” instituted in 2009 over an ongoing dispute related to cross-border trucking.

“American apple growers are disappointed and frustrated by the Mexican government’s decision to assess this unwarranted, unfair duty on apples,” stated USApple President and CEO Nancy Foster. “We urge the Obama Administration to act swiftly to resolve the cross-border trucking dispute. Failure to act on this issue is hurting U.S. farmers and opportunities to grow U.S. apple exports.”

Mexico is the largest export market for U.S. apples. Last year, Mexico imported 11.5 million boxes (bushels) of fresh U.S. apples, worth \$207 million, and dried apples valued at \$23 million. This represents 27.5 % of total U.S. apple export value.

In anticipation of the new tariffs, USApple joined the Alliance to Keep U.S. Jobs, a broad business coalition working to resolve the Mexican trade dispute. The coalition is seeking meetings with officials at the Department of Transportation and the United States Trade Representative in hopes of expediting a resolution to the dispute. USApple is also enlisting the support of apple state congressional offices in the effort.

In March 2009, the U.S. Congress terminated the U.S.-Mexico Cross Border Trucking Pilot Program at the urging of organized labor. As a result, the U.S. violated aspects of bilateral trade obligations with Mexico established through the North American Free Trade Agreement. In response, the Mexican government instituted retaliatory tariffs on \$2.4 billion worth of U.S. manufactured and agricultural exports. Due to inaction by the Obama Administration to resolve this problem in order to meet its trade obligations, the Mexican government plans to continue pressuring key U.S. industries by imposing duties on American goods.

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The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) is the national trade association representing the apple industry. Members include 36 state and regional apple associations representing the 7,500 apple growers throughout the country, as well as more than 300 individual firms involved in the apple business. USApple’s mission is to help facilitate the profitable production and marketing of apples and apple products through advocacy efforts, crisis issues management, and nutrition research and promotion.