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July 19, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Consideration and Ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

The Commodity Markets Council (“CMC”) writes to urge your strong support for swift ratification of the USMCA. The USMCA will benefit many of our members in the U.S. agriculture and energy sectors, while providing consumers a more abundant supply of high-quality, safe food, agriculture products, and energy at affordable prices. CMC also writes in support of the [letter](#) recently submitted by more than 950 groups representing the U.S. food and agriculture value chain at the national, state, and local levels.

CMC is a trade association that brings together exchanges and their industry counterparts. Its members include commercial end-users that utilize the futures and swaps markets for agriculture, energy, metal, and soft commodities. Its industry member firms also include regular users and members of swap execution facilities (each, a “SEF”) as well as designated contract markets (each, a “DCM”), such as the Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, ICE Futures US, Minneapolis Grain Exchange, NASDAQ Futures, and the New York Mercantile Exchange. Along with these market participants, CMC members also include regulated derivatives exchanges and price reporting agencies. As a result, CMC is well-positioned to provide a consensus view of commercial end-users on the impact of the USMCA. Its comments, however, represent the collective view of CMC’s members, including end-users, intermediaries, exchanges, and benchmark providers.

U.S. food and agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have more than quadrupled under NAFTA, which has significantly helped create a more reliable, high-quality supply of food products for U.S. consumers, while supporting almost one million American jobs in the food and agriculture sectors of the economy. The USMCA builds upon NAFTA’s success, and it will ultimately lead to freer markets and fairer trade. The USMCA’s modernized framework makes improvements to further enhance U.S. food, agricultural, and energy exports to our neighbors and would deliver billions of dollars in additional U.S. economic activity.

The International Trade Commission’s report on the USCMA confirms that the updated trade agreement will improve market access for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and food producers, and it will “have a positive impact on all broad industry sectors within the U.S. economy.” The report states that the USMCA will have a significant, positive impact on the U.S. GDP, raising it by almost \$70 billion. Furthermore, the USMCA will strengthen U.S. food and agriculture trade by enhancing various biotechnology and sanitary standards and by reducing the use of trade distorting policies. These and other advances help provide

certainty in the North American market – a certainty that is essential to CMC members, the American agriculture, food, and energy sectors, and throughout the American economy.

Because of the significance of the USMCA for CMC members, we respectfully urge swift ratification of the agreement.

If you have any questions about these comments, or we can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ James E. Newsome

James E. Newsome  
President  
Commodity Markets Council