

July 13, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write on behalf of our members who work each day to create a low-cost, reliable, safe food and biofuel supply for every American. As you know, American farmers, and our nation's food supply chain, stand on the precipice of an irreversible collapse due to impossibly high input costs that are untethered from the reality of crop prices. While the fragility of our agricultural economy has been exacerbated by recent events like the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, make no mistake, this crisis has been years in the making through a failure of the DOJ and FTC over the last twenty years to enforce our nation's antitrust laws.

On May 28, 2026, at an event in front of 100 growers from 18 states outside of McKinney, Texas, we heard directly from Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman Andrew Ferguson who announced an investigation into the fertilizer industry's business practices.¹ We applaud the FTC for taking this important step and look forward to seeing the results of their investigation. We also are aware of recent reporting that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating the industry for collusive practices, which aligns with recent comments from a senior administration official at the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) who explained that a duopoly has been manipulating the market and been "able to so constrain the supply of so many of the fertilizers that our farmers depend on that they were able to get pricing power."² Announcements and reports of investigations are welcome news, but it will take decisive action to restore free and fair markets so that the same competitive environment farmers face when selling their crops is present when they purchase inputs like fertilizer.

We fully support President Trump's June 29 declaration of a national emergency over fertilizer supplies and suspending duties on phosphate fertilizer imported from Morocco for eight months.³ Although Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins estimated there would be immediate

¹ See *Farm Progress*, "Federal Trade Commission Investigates Fertilizer Producers" May 19, 2026, available at <https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-policy/federal-trade-commission-investigates-fertilizer-producers>.

² See *Brownfield Ag News*, "USDA Deputy Secretary flags fertilizer, equipment consolidation, Jan. 23, 2026, available at <https://www.brownfieldagnews.com/news/usda-deputy-secretary-flags-fertilizer-equipment-consolidation/>.

³ Proclamation, Declaration of Emergency and Authorization for Temporary Duty Free Importation of Phosphate Fertilizer from Morocco (June 29, 2026), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential->

relief with a 22 percent reduction in phosphate fertilizer prices as a result,⁴ our members' still experience elevated phosphate fertilizer prices at a time when plans are being made for purchases for the upcoming 2027 planting year. Given our experience and the President's action recognizing the importance of the fertilizer supply chain to American farmers and the U.S. economy, it is critical for multiple strategies to be deployed to make a difference for farmers. Specifically, the Department of Justice must conduct their review of collusive practices in the fertilizer industry with utmost urgency.

Due to the time sensitive nature of these issues for farmers and the public, we ask that you urge the Department of Justice to complete its investigation of collusive practices in the fertilizer industry as fully and expeditiously as possible. Among other things, we hope that you will raise these important issues during your upcoming Attorney General nomination hearing and as part of your oversight of the Antitrust Division.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alabama Soybean & Corn Association
Georgia Corn Growers Association
IL Corn Growers Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Growers Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Dakota Growers Association
Tennessee Corn Growers Association
Texas Corn Producers Association

Cc: Honorable Mike Lee and Honorable Corey Booker

Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

[actions/2026/06/declaration-of-emergency-and-authorization-for-temporary-duty-free-importation-of-phosphate-fertilizer-morocco/](#).

⁴ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Agric., President Trump Takes Action to Lower Fertilizer Costs and Support American Farmers (June 29, 2026), <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/06/29/president-trump-takes-action-lower-fertilizer-costs-and-support-american-farmers-0>.