

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Ambassador Greer,

We write today to request that you work to achieve meaningful market access for U.S. sorghum in India through a substantial reduction in Indian tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. We strongly support the efforts that President Trump and you have undertaken to negotiate a Bilateral Trade Agreement with India, and believe that there is an opportunity for American sorghum producers to help address the issues of balance and reciprocity we have experienced in past trade with India.

As you know, India has publicly expressed interest in pursuing high-volume agricultural trade negotiations with the United States. While other American commodities encounter barriers to India due to genetic modification, sorghum is a non-genetically modified (GM) crop that would not be impacted by this issue. Access to this high-growth market could reduce the U.S. trade deficit with India by one billion dollars annually, while also providing critical market opportunities for the U.S. sorghum industry.

U.S. sorghum stands out as an ideal candidate for immediate access due to India's consistent resistance to adopting GM crops. As a non-GM crop, sorghum avoids the legal, regulatory, and public opposition that often accompany GM products in India. U.S. sorghum's unfettered access to India should offer a practical, low-resistance pathway to expanding U.S. agricultural exports while meeting a growing demand in India's animal feed market. Prioritizing market access for sorghum would deliver real value to both Indian buyers and American farmers.

India is already the fourth largest feed market in the world, and as its population grows, the amount of animal feed production will also rise significantly because of increased protein demand from its people. India's growth rate for animal feed production in 2024 was 13.4%, compared to the global average which declined by 0.2%. India is already a net importer of coarse grains and the demand is projected to rapidly grow in the coming years, making them an excellent opportunity for the sales of U.S. feed grains.

A very substantial portion of economic value for U.S. sorghum farmers has long been derived from export markets. Over the past 5 years, more than 70% of the U.S. sorghum crop has been exported annually at an average annual value over \$1.6 billion. Currently, total U.S. sorghum

exports to all destinations stand at 1.398 million metric tons, a 68% decline relative to the same time last year. The potential for sorghum exports to fall to zero is already being felt across the country, with many farmers not even seeing bids for their crops at local elevators. Moreover, companies that are purchasing U.S. sorghum are doing so at a 22% discount relative to last year. American sorghum farmers view India as a market that can immediately purchase over one billion dollars of U.S. sorghum, reducing the trade deficit with India, and supporting on-farm income.

President Trump's America First agenda rightly includes increasing exports of U.S. products in order to eliminate our gaping trade deficit. We believe American sorghum is a product that could quickly meet a real need in India and that large-ticket U.S. agricultural sales will aid in achieving the President's objective.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue to ensure that farm families across the country and the workers and communities that depend on them not only survive but thrive in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Ron Estes

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Pete Ricketts

Pete Ricketts
United States Senator