



National Potato Council

Mike Wenkel, Chief Operating Officer



NPC Team

- ▶ Kam Quarles, *Chief Executive Officer*
- ▶ Mike Wenkel, *Chief Operating Officer*
- ▶ Hollee Alexander, *Vice President of Industry Affairs and Events*
- ▶ Mark Szymanski, *Director of Communications*
- ▶ Ethan Keller, *Program Coordinator*



U.S.
Capitol

New NPC
Office



Mexico - Supreme Court Ruling - April

Statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Mexico Supreme Court Ruling in Favor of U.S. Potato Growers

WASHINGTON, April 28, 2021 — "Mexico's Supreme Court released a final, unanimous ruling today on a case that puts U.S. fresh potatoes one step closer to finally gaining access to Mexico following nearly 20 years of negotiations. This decision is important for American agriculture and for positive bilateral relations between the United States and Mexico. USDA has worked for years on a resolution to this ongoing issue. It was something I prioritized as Secretary between 2009-2016 and one of the first issues I discussed with Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture when I returned this year. U.S. industry representatives estimate that implementation of full market access for U.S. potatoes could increase U.S. exports from approximately \$50 million in 2020 to \$150 million or more. We look forward to resuming bilateral technical engagements to finalize import requirements as soon as possible. With more certainty returning to U.S. trade relationships in 2021, U.S. agricultural exports continue to perform strongly and remain poised to continue at a robust pace. Decisions like this one today are important for long-term export growth."

Statement

Release No. 0091.21

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov



Mexican Supreme Court ruling allows for increased US potato trade

04/28/21 6:02 PM By Bill Tomson

KEYWORDS EXPORTS JARED BALCOM JIM RISCH MEXICO NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL NPC POTATO TRADE



Mexico's top court issued a five-to-zero ruling on Wednesday that would allow the Mexican government to follow through on a promise to lift a barrier to imports of U.S. fresh potatoes, according to a statement released by the U.S.-based National Potato Council.

"Today's ruling comes as welcome news for Idaho potato growers," Idaho GOP Sen. Jim Risch said in a statement. "I'm proud to continue advocating for the Gem State's ag producers so people across the world can enjoy our state's most famous product."

Strong Engagement By Congress

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 18, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge you to continue to advocate for increased access for United States potato exports to Mexico during the course of any trade negotiations with the Mexican government.

On May 19, 2014, U.S. potato exporters were finally allowed to export fresh potatoes to Mexico. Unfortunately, the Mexican potato industry represented through Comisión Nacional de Producción (CONAPRO) sued the Mexican government and the general potato export ban was reinstated. Currently, this issue is pending before the Mexican Court.

We strongly support the benefits of trade between the United States and Mexico. Our countries engaged in nearly \$615 billion in trade. With the recent conclusion of the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement (USMCA), U.S.-Mexico trade will grow even more and benefit producers and consumers in both countries.

Although U.S. potato producers can ship processed, dried, and frozen potatoes to Mexico, access to the fresh potato market has been severely restricted and exports are limited to within an approximately sixteen-mile zone south of the U.S.-Mexico border. This greatly reduces opportunities for U.S. potato producers and further limits options for Mexican consumers. We encourage you to consider the use of all available mechanisms, including new dispute resolution authority under the USMCA, to ensure Mexico honors its obligations and allow U.S. potatoes to reach Mexican consumers.

As you continue market access conversations with Mexico, we again urge you to advocate for U.S. fresh potato exports and to further strengthen U.S.-Mexico trade relations.

Sincerely,

/s/
Cory Gardner
United States Senator

/s/
James E. Risch
United States Senator

/s/
Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative



Sen. Mike Crapo

Crapo says Mexico promises to open to US potatoes

The top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Idaho's Mike Crapo, says Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Economy Secretary Tatiana Clouthier have both assured him personally that the country is moving forward on regulations that will open up all of Mexico to imports of U.S. potatoes.

Mexico's Supreme Court issued a ruling in April that would allow the Mexican government to lift a barrier to fresh U.S. potatoes, but that has not happened yet. Mexico is now only partially open to U.S. potatoes, allowing them to be sold within 26 kilometers, or 16 miles, of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I won't consider the matter finished until our farmers are able to sell high-quality potatoes to every family in Mexico," Crapo said during a Finance Committee hearing on implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

- ▶ Congressional leaders have been extremely engaged in seeing this issue resolved

- ▶ ***"I won't consider the matter finished until our farmers are able to sell high-quality potatoes to every family in Mexico." - Sen. Mike Crapo***



EST. 1948



Unwavering Commitment from the Administration

- ▶ USDA and USTR have been extremely engaged.
- ▶ High level meetings have repeatedly included potatoes

APR 5, 2021

Vilsack willing to use USMCA deal in US-Mexico potatoes dispute



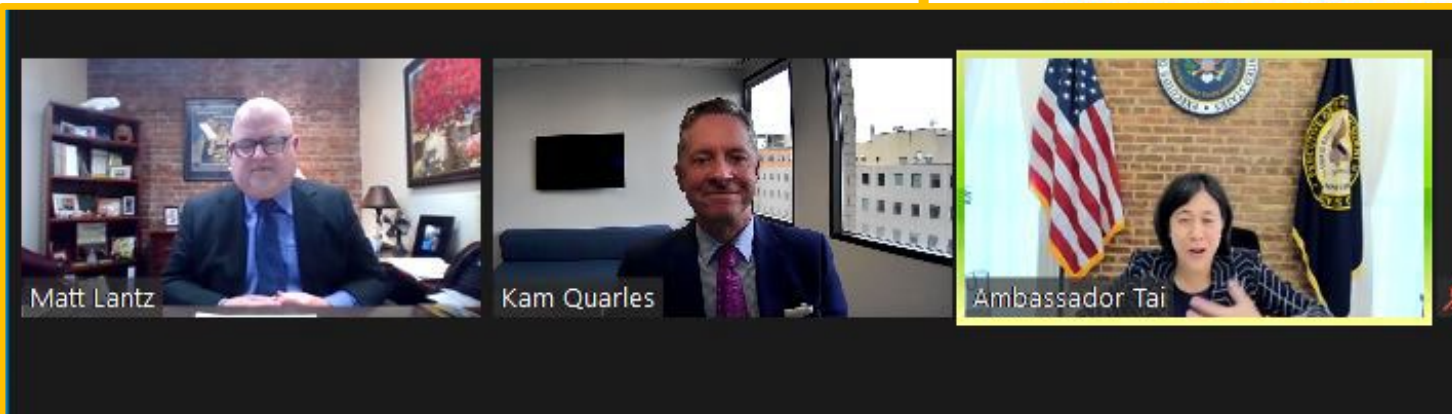
The news radio outlet [AgInfo.net](#) posted April 1 USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's recent comments about utilizing the USMCA to enforce U.S. trade rights should the Mexican Supreme Court decline to rule in the U.S. potato industry's favor on the longstanding issue of full U.S. fresh potato access.



In the story, reporter Bob Larson said, "American potato growers have been waiting patiently for the Mexican Supreme Court to rule on that countries' ban on U.S. fresh potato imports, without much news of late. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack says he spoke recently with Mexico's Ag Secretary Villalobos who

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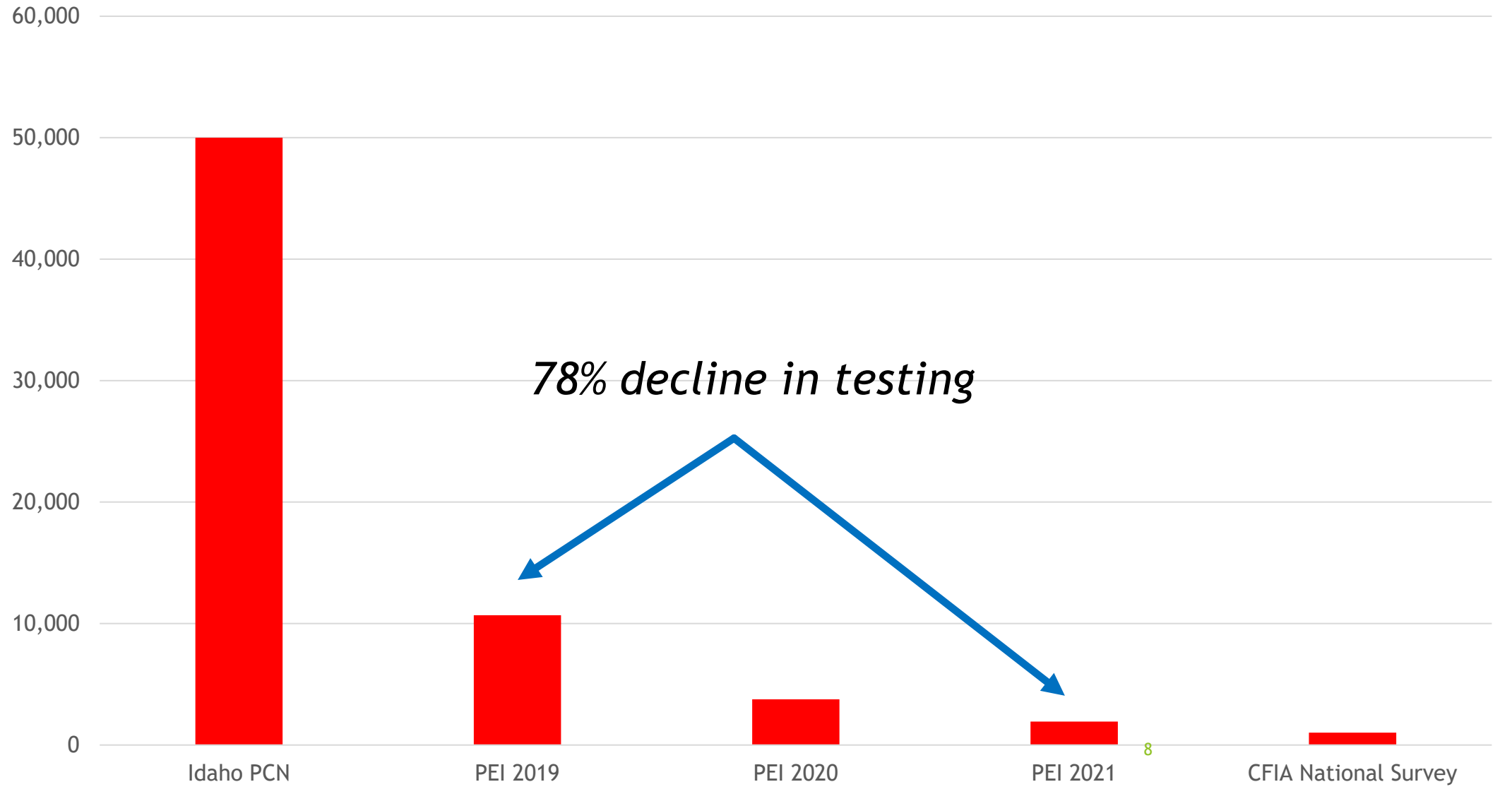
PEI Potato Wart Disruption

- ▶ Latest challenges with potato wart in Prince Edward Island, Canada (PEI)
- ▶ Potato Wart detected in PEI seed fields in November of 2020.
 - ▶ Temporary Suspension of seed exports to U.S.
 - ▶ No domestic restrictions
 - ▶ Five-month suspension lifted in March of 2021
- ▶ New detections in unrelated processing fields in October of 2021
 - ▶ PEI seed exports to Uruguay suspended in October
 - ▶ PEI seed shipments domestically suspended in November with new restrictions for other potatoes
 - ▶ All PEI potato exports to the U.S. suspended in November

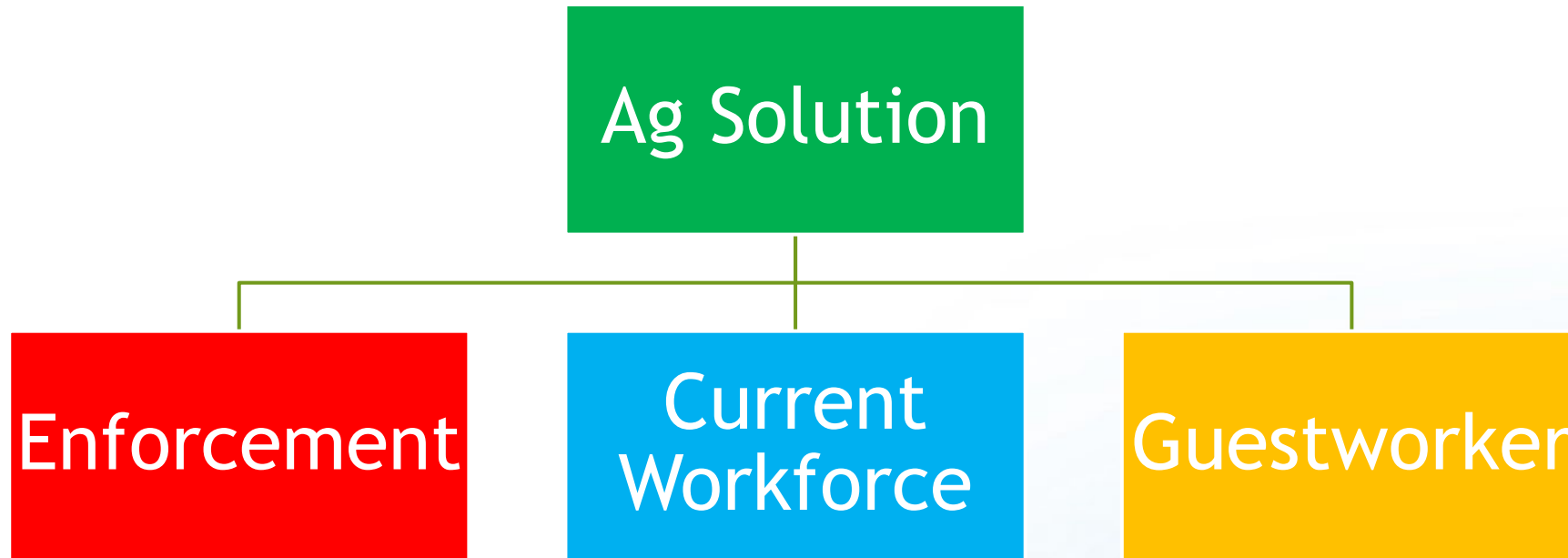


PEI Testing Declines

Annual Soil Testing



Agriculture Immigration Reform



Farm Workforce Modernization Act

- ▶ Bipartisan Bill
- ▶ Gained 30 Republican votes along with the Democrats in passing the House



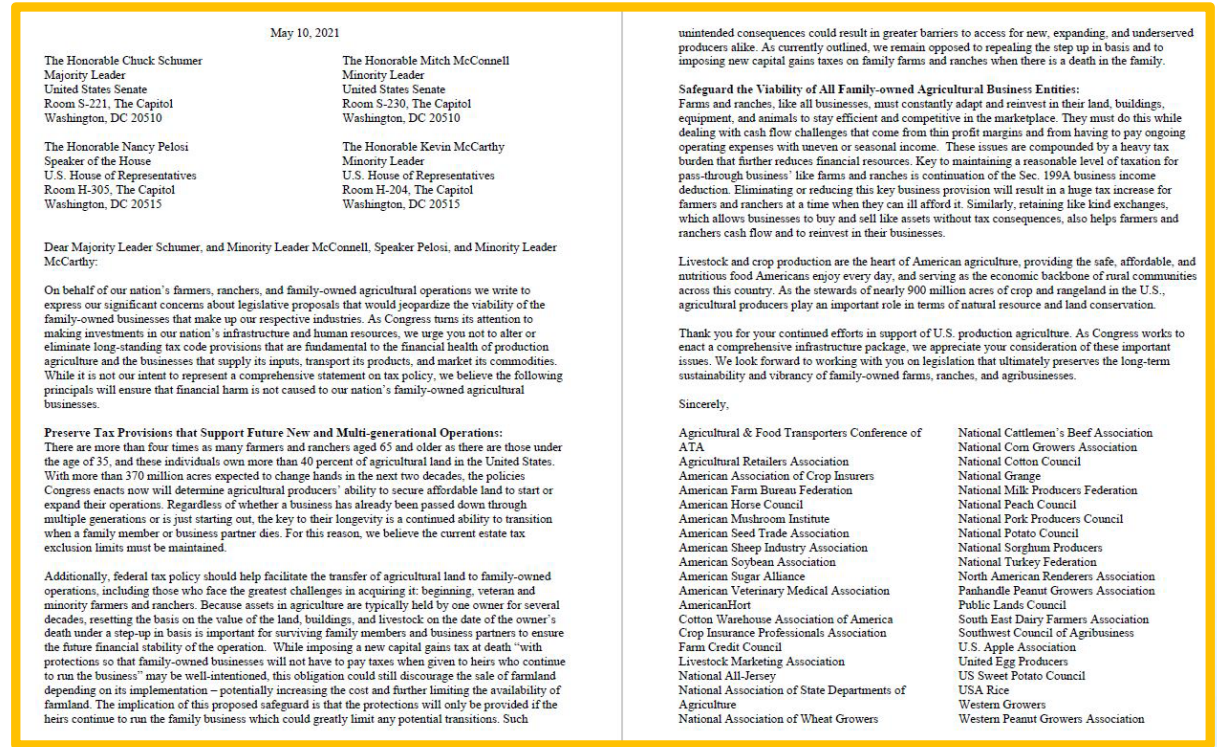
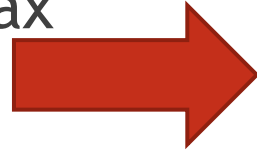
Supply Chain

- ▶ Federal government is struggling to impact the supply chain breakdown
- ▶ Prior issues foreshadowed their limited power now
 - ▶ **West Coast Longshore/Terminal Operator Disputes**
- ▶ Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021
- ▶ Infrastructure Bill



Pushing Back on Tax Increases

- ▶ NPC is part of a large ag tax coalition to maintain beneficial provisions
- ▶ Congress and activists have suggested eliminating the estate tax and other items to pay for infrastructure
- ▶ NPC Board unanimously opposes



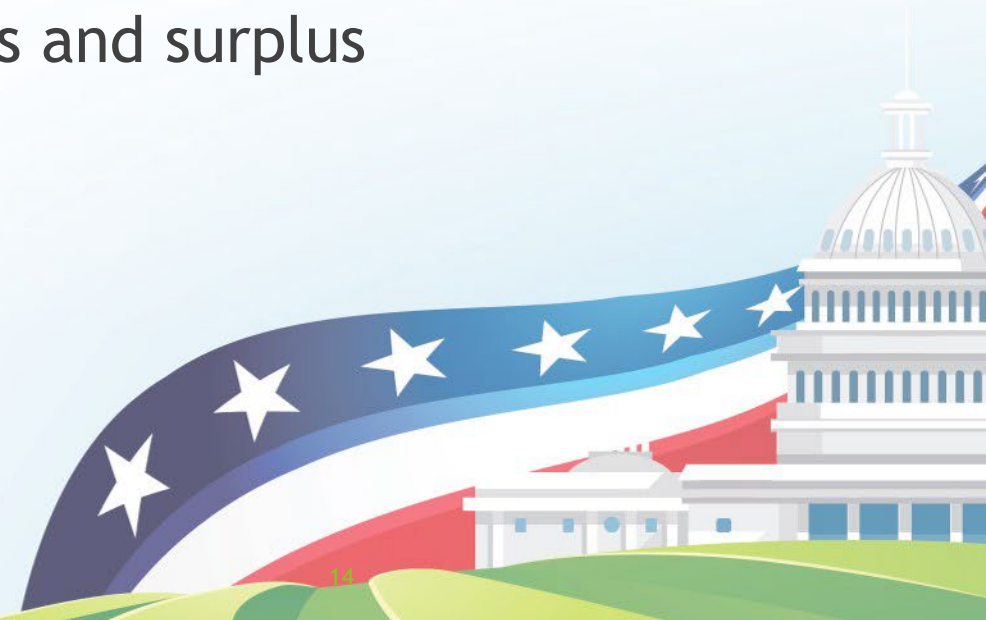
Pandemic Relief and the Potato Industry

- ▶ Beginning just after the crisis began a year ago, NPC and the state organizations began crafting a relief plan for the potato industry.
- ▶ The plan contained two major elements;
 - ▶ Substantial surplus commodity purchases by the government to replace demand lost in the wake of the government-mandated shutdown
 - ▶ A meaningful direct payment program to provide relief to economically-injured growers



\$350 million to the Potato Industry

- ▶ The combined federal relief for our industry is **\$350 million** since the COVID crisis began
- ▶ **Largest federal support in the industry's history**
- ▶ Includes both direct relief to growers and surplus commodity purchases.



Total Pandemic Relief for the Potato Industry

- ▶ \$139 million to potato growers - CFAP 1
- ▶ \$121 million to potato growers - CFAP 2
- ▶ \$50 million - Section 32 potato purchase
- ▶ \$40 million + - Farmers to Families Food Box Program

\$350 million overall (\$260 million direct to growers)



Potato Leadership Education, & Advancement Foundation





Purpose

Establish a long-term funding source to provide leadership development within the U.S. potato industry.

Board of Directors

- Shelley Olsen (WA), Chair
- Dan Moss (ID), Vice Chair
- RJ Andrus (ID)
- Gregg Halverson (ND)
- Keith McGovern (ND)
- Dick Pavelski (WI)

Non-voting: Kam Quarles (NPC), Blair Richardson (Potatoes USA), Kelly Turner (Michigan Potato Industry Commission)

Founders Society Members

Individual Members - \$10,000+

- RJ & Nancy Andrus, Idaho Falls, ID
- Black Gold Farms, Grand Forks, ND
- Blatchford Farms *in Memory of Dave Blatchford*
- Countrywide Potato LLC, Alliance, NE
- Todd & Jill Michael, Urbana, OH
- Montana Potato Advisory Committee
- Dan & Jann Moss, Rupert, ID
- Marty & Ann Myers, West Linn, OR
- Lynn J. & Marthann Olsen, Othello, WA
- Richard Pavelski, Hancock, WI
- Kam & Karen Quarles, Washington, DC
- Blair & Marti Richardson, Denver, CO
- Mike Wenkel, Washington, DC

Diamond Members - \$250,000+

- Idaho Potato Commission
- National Potato Council
- Potatoes USA
- Washington State Potato Commission

Platinum Members - \$100,000+

- RD Offutt Farms

Gold Members - \$50,000+

- Allied Potato
- Alsum Farm & Produce, Inc.
- Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
- Farm Credit
- J R Simplot
- Maine Potato Industry
- McCain Foods, USA
- **Michigan Potato Industry Commission**
- Northern Plains Potato Grower Association
- Oregon Potato Commission
- Sklarczyk Seed Farm
- Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association





Programs

- **Potato Industry Leadership Institute**
 - Feb. 23 – Mar. 4, 2022 in California/Washington, D.C.
 - 18 Participants
- **Graduate-level Annual Scholarship**
 - \$10,000 scholarship
- **Leadership Institute Alumni Summit**
 - June 24, 2022 Nashville, TN
- **Educational Sessions at Potato Expo 2023**
 - January 4-5, 2023 - Gaylord Rockies Resort



Ways to Contribute

- Donate or bid in Live & Silent Auction events
- Donate online

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NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL



2022 NPC WASHINGTON SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 3, 2022



Hear from the nation's top political and policy experts

Welcome NPC's 2022 officers and grower leaders

Meet with members of Congress representing potato-growing states and districts

... and unite as an industry in Standing Up for Potatoes on Capitol Hill!

Speakers:

- Amy Walter, Cook, Cook Political Report
- Rep. John Moolenaar (MI-4)
- Rod Snyder, Agriculture Advisor to Administrator, EPA
- Tom Vilsack (Invited), Secretary of Agriculture



Rep. John
Moolenaar (MI-4)



Amy Walter,
Cook Political Report



Rod Snyder, EPA

Potato Expo is Back Live!

