

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2026

Chair Amy A. Karpel
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Commissioner David S. Johanson
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Commissioner Jason E. Kearns
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chair Karpel and Commissioners Johanson and Kearns:

We write as United States Senators representing states with significant potato production to respectfully request that the United States International Trade Commission initiate a fact-finding investigation pursuant to Section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to examine the trade conditions affecting the U.S. potato industry in relation to Canada.

Canada is one of the most important export markets for U.S. fresh and processed potatoes, with annual trade valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. A stable, transparent, and rules-based trading relationship with Canada is therefore essential to the continued viability of potato producers in our states. Unfortunately, recent developments have raised concerns among U.S. growers regarding whether current trade conditions are fair, and consistent with international law and trade agreements.

Potato producers across the Upper Midwest, the Northeast, and other potato-producing regions have long raised concerns about competitive disadvantages in the U.S. market that may be linked to Canadian federal or provincial policies. These concerns include the potential impact of government programs, freight or transportation advantages, and other structural supports that may affect production costs or pricing behavior. When combined with exchange rate dynamics, these factors may be contributing to market distortions that allow Canadian potatoes to be sold in the United States at prices U.S. growers struggle to match.

Producers in the Upper Midwest and Northeast in particular, have emphasized the importance of understanding whether these policies are materially affecting competition, investment decisions, and long-term market balance in regions where U.S. and Canadian potato industries have historically been closely integrated.

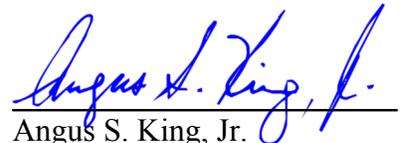
As well, we are concerned by the continued application—and recent escalation—of antidumping duties imposed by the Province of British Columbia on certain U.S. fresh potatoes. Although these duties stem from an antidumping determination made more than four decades ago, changes implemented in mid-2025 dramatically increased the applicable trigger price. Growers in Washington State report that the new trigger price exceeds any recent market price for the affected varieties, sizes, and packaging, effectively shutting U.S. potatoes out of the British Columbia market and resulting in millions of dollars in lost exports. These actions raise serious questions, and We believe it is appropriate for the Commission to examine the origins, administration, and present-day impacts of this long-standing antidumping measure.

We believe that Congress, the administration, and U.S. potato producers would benefit from a clear, objective, and comprehensive assessment of the facts provided by a Section 332 investigation, particularly ahead of the upcoming USMCA joint review. A Commission investigation could examine trade flows, pricing trends, cost structures, and government support measures, as well as the cumulative effects of these factors on U.S. producers, processors, and rural economies in potato-producing states.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we appreciate the Commission's longstanding role in providing Congress with rigorous, nonpartisan trade analysis.

Sincerely,


John Hoeven
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

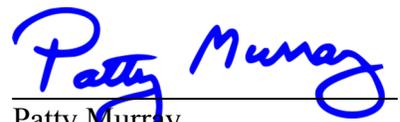

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