

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

We write to request coordinated action to address the severe disruption in the supply and affordability of sulfur needed to produce phosphate fertilizer in the United States. This challenge is already forcing production curtailments, affecting American workers and threatening the domestic fertilizer supply farmers rely on.

Elemental sulfur is essential to converting phosphate rock into crop nutrients. Recent geopolitical and shipping disruptions have constrained global sulfur supplies and driven prices to historic levels. The ten-year average price for sulfur in Tampa is \$172 per long ton. Since May, prices have exceeded \$1,000 per long ton and are currently approximately \$1,100 to \$1,200. At these levels, producing affordable domestic phosphate fertilizer is increasingly difficult.

The consequences are already being felt. Domestic phosphate producers have been forced to reduce operating rates, facilities have been idled, and American workers will soon face layoffs because of sulfur availability and affordability. Further disruptions would affect not only fertilizer workers, but also the contractors, suppliers and communities that depend on these operations. Once production capacity is lost, it cannot be quickly restored, nor can manufacturers easily make up lost fertilizer volumes before future planting seasons.

The effects directly impact American agriculture. Diminished domestic phosphate production tightens fertilizer supplies and raises costs at a time when farmers are already confronting high input costs and difficult commodity markets. Further increases could force producers to absorb additional costs, reduce nutrient applications or reconsider how many acres they can economically plant. Ultimately, those pressures will lower domestic food production and increase costs for American consumers.

More broadly, this is not a challenge for one company, state or industry. It is a critical national supply chain and food security issue. Losing domestic fertilizer production would increase our reliance on foreign sources for an essential agricultural input at a time when Republicans in Congress are working with your Administration to bolster domestic manufacturing and strengthen American supply chains.

We appreciate that your Administration has convened an interagency process to examine this problem. Given the urgency of the situation, we encourage continued engagement at the highest levels and consideration of all available lawful measures to increase the near-term availability of competitively priced sulfur for domestic fertilizer production.

Potential options could include, as appropriate, authorities under the Defense Production Act; voluntary coordination with domestic refiners and sulfur marketers; transportation, storage and logistics solutions; trade or financing tools; and engagement with allied suppliers. Any action should be targeted and account for potential impacts on energy markets and other domestic sulfur users.

We would also welcome an appropriate senior official coordinating this effort across the Administration and serving as a point of contact with Congress. Please keep us apprised of the Administration's efforts and any additional authority or resources Congress could provide to help reach a solution.

American fertilizer workers and farmers cannot wait for market conditions to normalize on their own. Swift action can preserve domestic fertilizer production, protect American jobs and strengthen the security of our food supply. We stand ready to work with your Administration toward a practical solution.

Sincerely,



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



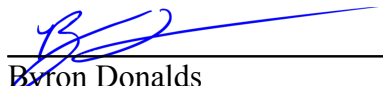
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