

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4315

March 7, 2025

Secretary Brooke Rollins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I write to you today to express concern over the rising costs of eggs. As you are aware, eggs were a cost-effective way for families to supplement their meals with nutrients and protein. This is especially important in regions like South Texas, where food security and affordability are major concerns. However, as the cost of eggs reach record highs, and other foods like meat, fruits, and vegetables continue to increase, families not just in South Texas but throughout the entire country are feeling the pinch at the checkout line.

Recent reports indicate that the United States is considering importing eggs from our trade partners abroad to alleviate the current egg shortage¹. As you assess what countries to import from, I ask that you seriously consider Mexico an option.

On February 26, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a statement saying that egg prices will continue to increase and can increase by up to 41 percent in 2025². These rising costs would not only devastate consumers but also affect the restaurants and supermarkets in our communities. Furthermore, consumer confidence is decreasing, and the one-year inflation expectation is the highest it has been in one and half years. I urge the Administration to take drastic measures to ensure that consumers and businesses alike are protected from these market shocks.

¹ Qui, Linda. "Agriculture Department Looks to import Eggs as Prices Soar." The New York Times. 25 Feb 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/26/us/politics/egg-prices-us-imports.html>.

² Dorn, Andrew, Joachim Steven. "Egg Prices Expected to Rise More than 40 % in 2025: USDA. NewsNation. 25 Feb 2025. <https://www.newsnationnow.com/business/your-money/egg-prices-rise-2025-report/>.

Mexico is our largest trading partner, and we share \$893.9 million worth of two-way trade between both nations per year³. Mexico's supply of eggs is stable, and domestic production continues to be strong. The Mexican agricultural sector boasts a robust avian vaccination program that targets chickens in high-risk of contracting the avian flu⁴. This program mitigates disruptions to egg and poultry production and ensures consumers do not face high prices or shortages. By partnering with Mexico, we can prevent further inflationary measures and ensure that the egg supply in the United States is stabilized.

Finally, I ask that the Administration reconsider any tariffs on Mexican imports set to go into effect on April 2, 2025, or at least exempt Mexico's agricultural sector, a major employer in the country. Mexican produce and eggs can help alleviate our current shortages and decrease inflation in our country. The proposed tariffs would be devastating and lead to higher costs for American consumers and businesses alike.

Thank you for time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Assistant, Paulina Carrillo, in my office at Paulina.Carrillo@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-2531. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicente Gonzalez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

³ Office of the United States Trade Representative. Mexico.

<https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/americas/mexico>

⁴ "Mexico to Start Vaccination Against Avian Flu. Avi News. 16 Nov 2022.

<https://avinews.com/en/mexico-to-start-vaccinations-against-avian-flu/>