

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Midwest Food Manufacturers Join Over 900 Food, Ag Groups Calling for Ratification of USMCA**

The Midwest Food Products Association ([MWFPA](http://mwfpa.org)) today joined over 900 U.S. food, agricultural and agribusiness organizations urging members of Congress to swiftly ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

In a [letter](#) sent to Congressional leaders, the signatories point out that USMCA will benefit the U.S. agriculture and food industry while providing consumers a more abundant supply of high-quality, safe food at affordable prices.

“Canada and Mexico represent two substantial markets to Midwest food manufacturers,” MWFPA President Jason Culotta said, “accounting for over \$3.5 billion in manufactured food exports from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Prompt ratification of the USMCA will benefit American consumers and provide the food industry with further opportunities to grow while making a significant investment in our economy.”

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The letter further states that “Over the last 25 years, U.S. food and agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have more than quadrupled under NAFTA – growing from \$9 billion in 1993 to nearly \$40 billion in 2018 and helping to support more than 900,000 American jobs in food and agriculture and related sectors of the economy. USMCA builds on the success of the NAFTA agreement, makes improvements to further enhance U.S. food and agricultural exports to our neighbors, and would deliver an additional \$2.2 billion in U.S. economic activity.”

According to Culotta “The trade agreement will provide greater certainty regarding trade arrangements between the three countries.”

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**ABOUT MWFPA**

The Midwest Food Products Association represents the business interests of the region’s dynamic food products industry. The association lobbies on legislative and regulatory matters; promotes safe food processing practices; investigates new technologies; funds industry research; and plans industry events. It represents over 100 processing facilities in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.