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American Frozen Food Institute Urges Obama Administration to Settle Trade Dispute with Mexico

MCLEAN, VA – In anticipation of Mexican President Felipe Calderón’s visit to the United States, [American Frozen Food Institute](http://www.affi.com) (AFFI) President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz today issued the following statement urging President Barack Obama to resolve the United States’ cross-border trucking dispute with Mexico.

“U.S. frozen potato producers and their employees are caught in the middle of a trade dispute between Mexico and the United States. Mexico imposed a 20 percent tariff on U.S. frozen potato products following termination of the cross-border trucking pilot program. This has led to a 51 percent drop in exports of U.S. frozen potato products to Mexico in 2009 alone. As this impasse continues, U.S. goods are being put at a competitive disadvantage and American jobs are being lost.

“Mexico is among our nation’s most important trading partners, and American workers deserve a fairer shake than this dispute has provided. AFFI urges Presidents Obama and Calderón to resolve this year long dispute. Every day this dispute drags on it costs American businesses lost sales and Americans lost jobs.”

Mexico placed retaliatory tariffs ranging from 10 to 45 percent on 90 U.S. products following the U.S. government’s termination of the cross-border trucking pilot program on March 10, 2009. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, these tariffs have cost American companies \$2.6 billion in lost trade.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry’s behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.com.