



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Corey Henry  
(703) 821-0770

## **American Frozen Food Institute Applauds Resolution of U.S.-Mexico Trucking Dispute**

**McLean, VA** – American Frozen Food Institute President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz issued the following statement today commending the signing of a memorandum between the U.S. and Mexico to end a lengthy cross-border trucking dispute. Today's signing will bring immediate relief to U.S. frozen food producers who have been hit hard by punitive Mexican retaliatory tariffs.

"AFFI has long endeavored to help find a solution to the U.S.-Mexico trucking dispute that has inflicted heavy economic losses on U.S. exporters of frozen potato products, frozen sweet corn and frozen ham.

"The memorandum ensures the U.S. will be in full compliance with its international trade commitments and will immediately help restore some of the lost jobs and lost market access U.S. frozen food producers have suffered."

The memorandum implements a previously agreed to joint agreement that creates a reciprocal, phased-in program that permits Mexican and U.S. long-haul carriers to engage in cross-border operations under the North American Free Trade Agreement. As a result of today's signing, Mexico will reduce its penalty tariffs by 50 percent and will remove all remaining retaliatory tariffs following the first U.S. authorization allowing a Mexican carrier to engage in cross-border operations.

Mexico imposed a 20 percent tariff on U.S. frozen potato products in 2009 after the U.S. cancelled a cross-border trucking pilot program, costing U.S. frozen potato product exporters more than \$33 million in lost revenue. Though that tariff was reduced to 5 percent in August 2010, Mexico expanded its tariff retaliation list to include imports of U.S. frozen sweet corn and frozen ham.

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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](http://www.affi.com).*