



Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Kody Blois  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development  
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The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne  
Minister of Finance  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
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**Subject: Request to Exempt Fresh Produce from Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S Goods**

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,

On behalf of the Canadian fresh fruit and vegetable sector, we respectfully request that, in the absence of U.S. tariffs on Canadian fresh fruits and vegetables, all fresh produce items be exempt from retaliatory tariffs imposed on goods originating from the United States. Furthermore, we urge the government to take proactive steps to remove the existing retaliatory tariffs on U.S. produce items, announced March 4<sup>th</sup>, to help mitigate the risk of future U.S. trade actions that could negatively impact Canadian produce exports.

Our sector is deeply integrated with the U.S. market, relying heavily on cross-border trade to meet year-round consumer demand and ensure food security in Canada. Many Canadian produce businesses are already operating on extremely tight margins—typically ranging from 4% to 10%. Any added costs from retaliatory tariffs would significantly impact the affordability and availability of fresh fruits and vegetables for Canadian families while jeopardizing the viability of small and medium-sized enterprises that form the backbone of our supply chain.

We fully understand and support Canada's right to respond to unfair trade practices. However, we urge the government to consider the essential nature of fresh produce and the economic vulnerability of our sector. Applying tariffs to these perishable, high-turnover goods could have unintended consequences for Canadian consumers, retailers, and growers alike.



Additionally, reducing exposure to U.S. trade measures by eliminating retaliatory tariffs on U.S. produce items would reinforce the stability of our trade relationship and prevent reciprocal actions that could further disrupt the fresh produce supply chain.

In the interest of supporting a healthy population, a resilient food system, and a competitive domestic industry, so long as Canadian fresh produce is granted tariff-free entry into the United States, we reiterate that fresh fruits and vegetables should be excluded from any retaliatory trade measures against the United States and that steps should be taken to remove the existing tariffs on U.S. produce items to safeguard retaliatory measures against Canadian produce exports.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage further with your office on this issue. Thank you once again for your leadership and commitment to supporting a thriving and dynamic Canadian fresh produce sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Lemaire', followed by a horizontal line.

Ron Lemaire  
President  
Canadian Produce Marketing Association