

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to you today with grave concern regarding the United States' overreliance on China for the production of critical nutrients that are essential to both human health and animal agriculture. The United States' vitamin manufacturing is nearly non-existent, leaving it reliant on imports from China which dominates global vitamin manufacturing. This action has created a dependency that poses a significant threat to our national food security, agricultural community, and public health. Food security is national security, and immediate action is required to repatriate vitamin production to the United States to safeguard our supply chains for humans and animals alike.

China is the undisputed global leader in vitamin production, accounting for approximately 73% of the world's feed-grade vitamin A and 62% of vitamin E in 2022, with some estimates indicating up to 94% dominance in specific categories.¹ Overall, an estimated 78% of U.S. vitamin imports originate directly from China, with certain vitamins reaching 100% dependency.² This includes over 90% of the world's vitamin C supply, much of which is produced in China.³ Folic acid, in particular, is nearly 100% manufactured in China, representing a critical vulnerability in our efforts to combat public health challenges.⁴ China's annual production capacity for synthetic folic acid stands at around 3,000 tons, underscoring its control over this essential nutrient. Further, China has also increased its dominance in the amino acid space, mirroring the trajectory seen with vitamins.

¹ <https://www.agtechnavigator.com/Article/2024/04/17/china-dominance-us-told-to-invest-in-vitamin-production/>

² <https://www.ifeeder.org/news/ifeeder-fodder/exploring-the-impact-of-vitamin-and-amino-acid-supply-chain-disruptions-on-u-s-livestock-and-food-security/>

³ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/repcoworld_supplychain-foodfortification-vitamins-activity-7376639266929610752-S--3

⁴ <https://hbr.org/2024/11/3-essential-vitamins-tell-the-story-of-u-s-dependence-on-china>

This vulnerability extends directly into infant nutrition. Critical vitamins and minerals used in infant formula – such as vitamin A, vitamin D, folic acid, and key premix ingredients – are overwhelmingly imported from China. Recent National Academies analysis confirms that China is the single largest supplier of nearly all essential micronutrients used in U.S. infant formula, and that supply chains for these inputs are deeply opaque and difficult to trace.⁵

Vitamins are indispensable for animal production, which forms the backbone of our food supply. Without adequate vitamins, sectors including eggs, aquaculture, swine, pet food, poultry, beef, and dairy would face severe disruptions. Shortages could lead to reduced feed efficiency, impaired growth rates, compromised animal health, and diminished protein output, ultimately threatening livestock productivity and food availability.⁶

A recent third-party report by the Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER) paints a grim picture of these vulnerabilities, highlighting how disruptions in vitamin supply chains – predominantly from China – could jeopardize U.S. livestock health and overall food security. Similarly, a Brookings Institution analysis underscores the broader exposure of the U.S. drug and pharmaceutical supply chains to China, including early-stage production of active ingredients vital for vitamins and supplements.⁷

China has a history of establishing dominance in areas of critical infrastructure through a decades-long government strategy that ultimately allows it to secure control over global supply chains and strategic assets. China's recent actions on critical minerals signal potential for further disruptions. In 2025, Beijing expanded export controls on rare earth minerals, adding five new elements to a restricted list and requiring licenses for products containing even trace amounts of domestically sourced rare earths.⁸ This follows a pattern of restrictions since 2023, including on gallium and germanium, and serves as a stark warning: China has explicitly indicated that export bans could extend to other critical products.⁹

Given vitamins' status as essential inputs for food and health, similar measures could cripple U.S. agriculture and public health overnight. To mitigate these risks, we urge the Administration to prioritize the following actions:

⁵ <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27765/challenges-in-supply-market-competition-and-regulation-of-infant-formula-in-the-united-states>

⁶ <https://www.ifeeder.org/news/releases/new-study-to-analyze-the-potential-impact-of-vitamin-amino-acid-supply-chain-disruptions-on-u-s-livestock-and-food-security/>

⁷ <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/us-drug-supply-chain-exposure-to-china/>

⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-tightens-rare-earth-export-controls-2025-10-09/>

⁹ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2025/10/chinas-new-restrictions-rare-earth-exports-send-stark-warning-west>

1. Invest in domestic vitamin manufacturing through incentives, grants, and public-private partnerships to reduce reliance on China and build resilient supply chains.
2. Incorporate vitamin production into national security strategies, treating it as a critical infrastructure component under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of War, and Department of Commerce oversight.
3. Conduct a comprehensive review of vitamin supply chain vulnerabilities, building on reports like IFEEDER's analysis, and develop contingency plans for potential supply chain disruptions.
4. Ensure infant formula nutrition inputs, like vitamins, minerals, and premixes, are fully integrated into federal supply chain vulnerability assessments and contingency planning.

We stand ready to work with you on legislative measures to support these initiatives. The time to act is now – before a crisis unfolds. Food security for our animals and humans is indeed national security.

Sincerely,



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



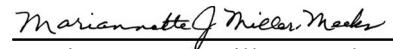
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Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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M.D.
Member of Congress



Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Jameison Greer, U.S. Trade Representative