

AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP 2017

Action Items



*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*

Over the past several years the Agriculture Working Group has focused on the Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan and continues to provide input on agriculture related topics.

The group released a statement in support of the RCC to the region's agriculture sectors, calling on the governments of Canada and the U.S. to reaffirm their commitment by ensuring adequate resources are dedicated to the action plan's initiatives.

Action Items		Status
1	Representatives from agriculture sectors of the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER), in both the United States (U.S.) and Canada, recognize the importance of trade and the benefits currently realized under the North American Free Trade Agreement. Members of the PNWER Agriculture Working Group urge both the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to proceed quickly with modernizing NAFTA and commit to do no harm to the integrated North American	PNWER provided input to both countries on NAFTA priorities for the region. We testified at the Dept. of Commerce hearing and continue to meet with congressional leaders and key staff. We met with Rep. Reichert twice to provide input directly to him on the priorities of the region
2	Members of PNWER urge leaders in both the U.S. and Canada to push for science based regulation in the agriculture sector and continue to advance regulatory alignment and cooperation. It is important for the U.S. and Canada to work together and take a leadership role internationally on these issues to ensure that plant and animal health restrictions are based on fact, not feeling. These issues include maximum residue levels, low level presence policies and the advancement of science based standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE World Organization for Animal Health.	PNWER will work to reach out to RCC leads and embassy staff during upcoming visits to DC and Ottawa to share this message. PNWER solicited ideas from regional stakeholders on new RCC initiatives as part of Canada's RCC outreach effort in late 2017.