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**Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
Senate Resolution 376 (Obhof)
Lucas Crumley, Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
October 18, 2019**

Chairman McColley, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, on behalf of The Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA) and its members, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of S.R. 376.

Ohio's economy thrives on the export of corn, soft red winter wheat, livestock, ethanol, corn co-products, and small grains. Therefore, developing and maintaining fair and open global trade practices remains an essential policy priority for our state's agricultural producers. The OCWGA supports fair trade policies which play a vital role in raising the standard of living for all people. Through effective trade policy, Ohio's farmers prosper, and their local communities flourish.

Today we join in supporting the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which will solidify a \$40 billion export market with America's largest and most reliable trading partners. Through their continued annual purchases of corn, soft red winter wheat, ethanol, and other products, these critical partners consume \$3.6 billion worth of Ohio agricultural outputs and support nearly 30,500 Ohio jobs.¹

This agreement takes significant strides in promoting American agriculture. In addition to improving the flow of trade, it addresses critical areas such as biotechnology and science-based methods of production which promote human, animal and plant health. Further, it holds our trading partners accountable – garnering agreement by Canada to terminate a discriminatory grading system that harms American wheat production.

In the midst of a period of difficult growing conditions, Ohio's farmers need the stability of predictable international markets for their products. Getting the USMCA approved will bring certainty to our growers and will yield real benefits at every level of the farm supply and distribution chain.

The OCWGA appreciates the efforts of President Obhof and the Ohio Senate in making its support for the USMCA public. It is time for Congress to act in support of our farmers, workers, and local communities by approving this vital trade agreement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on S.R. 376 and the OCWGA asks that this committee support the resolution.

¹ https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/ohio_usmca_07162019.pdf

