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OPINIONLETTERS

Halt Mexico's Trade War Before It Is Too Late

AMLO's decree would be devastating for the Mexican people and U.S. farmers.





President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks in Mexico City, Oct. 14.

PHOTO: EYEPIX/ZUMA PRESS

In "Mexico Threatens a Trade War" (Americas, Nov. 7), Mary Anastasia O'Grady does an excellent job outlining what will ensue should President Andrés Manuel López Obrador move forward with his promise to implement a decree that would ban biotech corn in early 2024.

The U.S. is a leading corn supplier for Mexico, and 90% of corn grown in this country is biotech, which empowers farmers to conserve the soil and reduce insecticide use. Given these facts, it goes without saying that Mr. López Obrador's decree would be devastating for the Mexican people and U.S. farmers. Thousands of growers are busy right now booking seed for spring 2023 planting, meaning that what is purchased this fall will be in grain channels as late as 2025. Much of that seed corn is and will continue to be biotech corn.

Biotech corn isn't the only crop targeted by Mexican officials. Biotech soybeans, cotton and canola import approvals have also been rejected by Mexico's regulatory agency over the past year. There is a way to resolve this situation before it is too late. The U.S. Trade Representative

must intervene and file a dispute with Mexico under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Given all that is at stake, we would encourage USTR to act sooner rather than later.

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