November 4, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Subject: Avocado Pest Detections in Mexico and Destruction of Fruit

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I am writing to express serious concern regarding recent reports of avocado seed weevil detections in Mexico and the subsequent destruction of significant quantities of fruit. These findings raise troubling questions about the effectiveness of Mexico's phytosanitary inspection and certification program, and again underscore the importance of independent USDA oversight and adequate safeguards.

The recent reports also appear to state that avocados originating from non-certified Mexican groves are being introduced into the supply chain intended for export to the United States. If this is occurring, it will seriously undermine the integrity of the certification program and potentially expose California growers to unacceptable phytosanitary risks.

To help our industry understand the scope of the ongoing problem I would be grateful if you and your team could share with us what pests were detected, the extent to which the pests were in certified groves, and the corrective actions USDA is taking to redress these infestation risks.

As you might expect, our 3,000 avocado growers are extremely concerned about an invasive pest becoming established in California and the significant economic and environmental harm any such infestation could cause to our industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ken Melban
President