

May 12, 2026

ABC Annual Washington, D.C. Trip

In April, ABC conducted its annual industry delegation trip to Washington, D.C. with Bob Silveira, Jonathan Hoff, and Lucas Van Duyn. The week was filled with several productive meetings, including with the U.S. Office of the Trade Representative (USTR), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Security Council, Representative Jim Costa, and the Chinese Embassy. ABC also met with USDA Foreign Ag Service Dubai staff who were back in DC. The week focused on providing timely information on the current California almond production outlook and priority issues impacting the almond industry including the ongoing trade negotiations with India, the impact of the Iran conflict on imports and exports, and technical barriers to trade.



ABC met with Deputy Under Secretary Michelle Bekkering.



After ABC's meeting with the National Security Council on supply chains.

President Trump announced the removal of tariffs on Scottish whiskey.

- A [bipartisan group of senators](#) urged the U.S. Trade Representative to prioritize certainty and market access for agriculture in the upcoming United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) six-year joint review.
- In late April, a delegation from the Indian Government traveled to Washington for meetings on trade. No announcements have been made on the meetings or any developments related to the U.S.-India bilateral trade agreement.

ABC updated its tariff chart on the [ABC website](#) this month. Also included is a chart reflecting the pending agreements and their impact on almonds. For more information, please contact Lindsay at ltello@almondboard.com.

USTR/USDA APAC/ATAC

In April, USDA and USTR welcomed members of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) and Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATACs) to DC for focused discussions on trade barriers impacting American agriculture around the world.

Julie Adams, as a member of the Fruits and Vegetables ATAC, provides input on the priority issues impacting the California almond industry. Members heard from Secretary Rollins of USDA, Ambassador Jamison Greer of USTR, and Chief Agricultural Negotiator Julie Callahan of USTR on the current trade outlook.

Latest Tariff and Trade Updates

Following is a quick rundown of recent tariff and trade activities. ABC is closely monitoring the announcements, to identify where these framework agreements directly benefit almonds. Unless noted, *implementation dates have **not** been announced*:

- The House of Representatives passed its version of the next farm bill, which now goes to the Senate. The [legislation](#) includes increased funding for export promotion programming and a U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) agricultural report requirement.
- Following King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom's visit to the United States,

Iran Update and Diverted Consignments

Respondents to the Almond Board survey on impact of Iran war on Middle East trade report having containers actively in transit to the region (UAE and surrounding), ranging from a small number (2–4) to significantly larger volumes (up to 26), with clear confirmation that shipments are being disrupted. These disruptions include containers being held at transshipment ports, rerouted to unfamiliar locations, and additional freight-related charges such as war risk premiums and emergency surcharges, which in one case range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per container.

Further, industry participants describe a highly uncertain and challenging operating environment, characterized by carrier *force majeure* declarations, limited flexibility to adjust shipments, and rising ancillary costs such as detention, demurrage, and Collect On Delivery (COD) fees. Respondents indicate that logistics are largely “in limbo,” with ongoing negotiations with buyers on final destinations and pricing, and only limited success in diverting shipments through alternative hubs such as Pakistan or Turkey.

The Almond Board is actively coordinating with industry stakeholders and collecting real-time feedback, which is being shared with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) posts in the region to provide support for diverted shipments where possible. Recently, working with FAS and APHIS, several consignments were successfully diverted to Pakistan. California almond shippers who have a similar situation in Pakistan should contact ABC so we can assist with re-issue of phytosanitary certificates.

ABC is also aware that Turkish customs has increased import testing, which may be related to diverted shipments. ABC will publish additional information on this increased testing at Turkish ports. If you have questions, please contact Lindsay at ltello@almondboard.com.

India Campaign Launch

On May 8, ABC held a trade conference in Delhi to launch new consumer and trade programs. The upcoming program incorporates a number of innovative initiatives. *Almonds: The Superfood for a Super You* will be rolling out over the coming month. Also featured was the launch of an India Premier League promotion which will run through May.

USDA Relocation/Re-Organization

USDA announced a major reorganization of the Food Safety Inspection Service and the Research, Education, and Economics mission area. Key actions include relocation of nearly half of these positions to established hubs. No announcements have been made yet regarding other key agencies with which the almond industry closely works (e.g. Foreign Ag Service, Ag Marketing Service,

Animal/Plant Health Inspection). Additional announcements regarding other agency moves are anticipated in the coming weeks.

America First Trade Promotion Programming (AFTPP)

ABC is the proud recipient of \$4 million of the newly established USDA Foreign Agricultural Service AFTPP. The program is a cost-share export promotion program that provides funding to expand overseas markets for U.S. food and agricultural products. ABC is excited to leverage this funding to build global demand in key growth markets for California almonds while also capitalizing on industry investments and accelerating innovation and market diversification. USDA awarded AFTPP to 55 nonprofit organizations and cooperatives.

Tariff Refunds

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released a [tariff refund system](#) on April 20. The system follows a Supreme Court ruling declaring the Trump Administration’s sweeping global tariffs, implemented using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, unlawful. After the Supreme Court’s decision, the [Court of International Trade](#) declared that all importers are entitled to the benefit of the *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump* decision. CBP [responded](#) that it could not comply with this order but would build a mechanism to do so.

Upcoming Events & GTRA Activities

May 10-15	INC in Macao
May 12	China California Business Economic Forum LA
May 13-15	UNECE, Geneva
May 28-29	MRL Conference, Sacramento
June 1-5	USDA TRUMP Mission Argentina/Ecuador

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