



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 26, 2025

HIS EXCELLENCY ESTEBAN MOCTEZUMA BARRAGÁN
Ambassador
Embassy of Mexico
191 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

At your earliest convenience, please forward the enclosed letter to Secretary Berdegúé. We have also sent an electronic copy to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brooke L. Rollins".

Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 26, 2025

HIS EXCELLENCY JULIO ANTONIO BERDEGUÉ SACRISTÁN
Secretary of Agriculture
Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear Secretary Berdegué:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of April 11, 2025, regarding the New World Screwworm (NWS).

We are now at a critical inflection point in our shared campaign against this pest, and I am very concerned about our collaboration. The outbreak in southern Mexico continues to expand, and every day that passes without full deployment of sterile insect technique (SIT) operations represents a lost opportunity to contain this pest and prevent its spread beyond the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

As you are aware, this emergency response effort relies on the availability and continuous operation of appropriate aircraft fleets. These aircraft—operated by USDA APHIS-contracted carriers, including Dynamic Aviation—are uniquely equipped to conduct the high-volume, precision aerial releases required to suppress and eliminate the NWS population. The inability of any one of these providers to operate fully compromises the integrity of our regional strategy.

Aviation authorities in Mexico have imposed restrictions on Dynamic that appear inconsistent with a successful and coordinated campaign. As an initial matter, they have limited Dynamic to flying under a temporary 60-day permit (issued through an agreement with the Mexican firm Mubarqui), which does not give the necessary assurance that our current activities can be sustained. In addition, they have limited Dynamic to flying only 6 days per week, whereas the success of the operation requires consistent flights 7 days per week—including direct flight permissions, pilot credentialing, facility access, and full control over their logistical and technical operations.

More recently, we have also been informed that Mexican customs authorities are imposing substantial import duties on critical aviation parts, dispersal equipment, and sterile fly shipments. This is despite the fact that all materials and operations are being funded entirely by the U.S. Government to support our shared goal of stopping the northward spread of NWS and pushing the pest back toward the biological barrier at the Darién Gap. We do not understand how our official efforts to stop a common pest can be subject to such burdensome customs duties. These

delays and costs not only disrupt operations but risk delaying aircraft deployment at the precise moment when rapid action is needed most.

We respectfully urge you to take immediately steps to remove these barriers. Specifically, we ask that your office:

- Engage directly with AFAC, SAT (Customs), and other relevant Mexican federal entities to facilitate Dynamic's operational clearance for a minimum of one year, preferably as long as needed or indefinitely;
- Secure full import clearance and duty waivers for all NWS-related aircraft parts, sterile flies, and SIT equipment currently being provided by APHIS for the eradication campaign;
- Designate a high-level point of contact who will work directly with USDA APHIS to remove remaining bureaucratic and regulatory obstacles with urgency.

Time is of the essence. Every delay in granting full operational authority and eliminating customs barriers undermines our collective ability to carry out this emergency response. We cannot afford to continue operating at partial strength. The situation requires immediate attention and decisive coordination at the highest levels of your Government. I must inform you that if these issues are not resolved by Wednesday, April 30, USDA will restrict the importation of animal commodities, which consist of live cattle, bison, and equine originating from or transiting Mexico to protect the interest of the agriculture industry in the United States.

In parallel, we propose convening a U.S.-Mexico NWS Aerial Dispersal Strategy Meeting, with participation from both governments, technical experts, and operational partners, to align our strategy and ensure a seamless and sustained response.

We stand ready to support this meeting and to collaborate on resolving these outstanding issues as quickly and efficiently as possible. I respectfully, and urgently, request your office's response at your earliest convenience so that we may take joint action without further delay.

Thank you for your continued partnership and leadership. With decisive support from your team, I am confident we can overcome these challenges and preserve the progress we have made together in safeguarding our region's agricultural future.

Sincerely,



Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture