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Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission Visits South Dakota, Signs Wheat LOI Following \$10 Billion U.S. Commodity Commitment

PIERRE, SD – The Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission, co-led by Director General Debby Huang of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) and Taiwan Flour Mills Association Executive Director, Michael Chang, visited South Dakota last week. The visit followed meetings in Washington, D.C. and reinforced Taiwan’s long-standing partnership with American farmers by announcing new commitments to agricultural trade.

Taiwan pledged to purchase \$10 billion in U.S. commodities—including soybeans, corn, wheat, and beef—over the next four years, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.

As part of that pledge, the Taiwan Flour Mills Association (TFMA) signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the South Dakota Wheat Commission on September 19. The LOI outlines TFMA’s plans to purchase approximately \$1.3 billion in U.S. wheat between 2026 and 2029. The signing was witnessed by Governor Larry Rhoden and Debby Huang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver.

“This is a huge win for both our state and nation!” said Governor Larry Rhoden. “Taiwan’s intent to purchase South Dakota wheat will strengthen our already thriving economy. There is no doubt that our state is Open for Opportunity!”

“Agriculture is the backbone of South Dakota’s economy, with \$5.4 billion in exports annually supporting thousands of jobs across our state,” said Jesse L. S. Fonkert, President & CEO of South Dakota Trade. “Wheat continues to play a vital role, and Taiwan’s commitment to purchase American agricultural goods strengthens opportunities for South Dakota producers. We’re proud to partner with the South Dakota Wheat Commission to host this mission.”

“South Dakota’s farmers work hard to produce some of the highest-quality wheat in the world, and it is encouraging to see that effort recognized through Taiwan’s intent to purchase our wheat,” added Bryan Jorgensen, Chairman of the South Dakota Wheat Commission, “This Letter of Intent provides opportunity for our producers while strengthening international relationships that are vital to agriculture. We are proud to see South Dakota wheat play such an important role in Taiwan’s food supply.”

The goodwill delegation spent several days in South Dakota, meeting with Governor Larry Rhoden, touring CHS and Sioux Nation, visiting a family farm, and experiencing the Black Hills.

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South Dakota Trade is a 501(c)(6) association that navigates international trade for South Dakota, with offices in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. For additional information, please visit www.southdakotatrade.com.