U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Hearing to Consider the Pending Nominations of Gregory Ibach, Carl Bednarski, John Grunewald II, and James Russell Middleton

Questions for the Record submitted to Gregory Ibach from Senator Grassley:

Question 1: I recently led a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative and Department of Commerce on behalf of the Iowa congressional delegation concerning a trade dispute that has arisen between the United States and Mexico. In retaliation for tariffs the U.S. has imposed on certain seasonal agricultural imports from Mexico, Mexico has launched an investigation into antidumping and countervailing duties against U.S. pork products. These types of seasonal produce disputes not only raise costs for American consumers but also threaten export markets for agricultural commodities across the board, including Iowa pork.

If confirmed, will you commit to working with USTR and the Department of Commerce to ensure all agriculture is considered in seasonality disputes?

Question 2: Many countries look to the United States as the gold standard on sanitary and phytosanitary standards. Should you be confirmed, will you commit to working with me and trade leaders in the administration to reduce sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade, and work to ensure that our trading partners adhere to sound science, evidence based, risk-based regulatory frameworks on ag issues such as bio-tech?

Question 3: The ultimate purpose of foreign assistance is to eliminate the need for it by helping countries become self-reliant. How do you plan to assist countries currently receiving assistance in achieving self-reliance?

Questions for the Record submitted to Carl Bednarski, John Grunewald II, and James Russell Middleton from Senator Grassley:

Question 1: If confirmed, what policies would you hope to enact or continue to help small, beginning, and young farmers?