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NARA Urges Investigation on Chinese Collagen Imports

Trade Group Cites Market Imbalance as U.S. Producers Face Restrictions Abroad and Pricing Pressure at Home

ALEXANDRIA, VA, April 15, 2026 -The North American Renderers Association (NARA) announced that it has submitted [formal comments](#) to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and requested to testify in the Section 301 investigation into China’s policies related to excess capacity in manufacturing sectors, including collagen and gelatin.

In its comments, NARA describes a fundamentally imbalanced trade relationship in which U.S. producers are effectively restricted from exporting key ruminant-derived materials to China, while Chinese producers export collagen and gelatin into the United States at prices that undercut market-based suppliers. China continues to prohibit imports of certain U.S. raw materials under outdated restrictions that no longer reflect current science or risk-based trade standards, even as it expands exports to the U.S. market.

“U.S. producers are locked out of China, while Chinese producers are fully participating in—and distorting—the U.S. market,” said Dana Johnson Downing, NARA’s Senior Vice President of International Programs. “That is not just unfair—it is structurally imbalanced.”

Collagen and gelatin are essential inputs used in food, nutrition, and health-related products, and supply chains are highly regulated, making rapid sourcing shifts difficult. NARA notes that Chinese producers appear to be exporting at prices inconsistent with normal market conditions, contributing to suppressed prices for U.S. producers and reduced value for upstream agricultural inputs such as hides and bones. These conditions discourage investment in domestic and allied supply chains and increase reliance on less transparent imports.

NARA is urging USTR to take targeted, China-specific action that addresses non-market overcapacity while preserving access to lawful, non-Chinese supply critical to U.S. manufacturers. The association specifically calls for the inclusion of collagen and gelatin in any Section 301 measures, increased scrutiny of transshipment and origin evasion, and coordination across agencies to ensure policies reflect supply chain and regulatory realities.

NARA cautioned that overly broad measures could disrupt supply chains that are slow to adjust and risk unintended consequences for U.S. downstream industries. A targeted approach, the association emphasized, will better address China-specific distortions while maintaining access to compliant global supply.

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use and beneficial reuse of animal byproducts and UCO, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes the bi-monthly trade magazine *Render* and provides research, policy development, and educational resources on rendering and recycling operations. For more information, visit www.nara.org