



Cordova for President

Moving Forward Together



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The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

POLICY POSITION PAPER

PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM FOREIGN STATE-LINKED ACQUISITION:

Sovereignty Without Hostility

I. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

This policy is not about hostility toward any foreign nation. It is about the exercise of sovereign responsibility that every nation on earth recognizes as legitimate and necessary. The United States seeks strong, cooperative, and mutually beneficial relationships with nations across the world. The protection of domestic food production infrastructure is not a barrier to those relationships. It is a prerequisite for the national security of any sovereign state — and every responsible government in the world would do the same.

The Cordova Administration's policy on foreign ownership of American agricultural land is grounded in three principles:

- **Sovereign responsibility:** A nation that does not control the land that feeds its people does not fully control its own future.
- **Structural clarity:** The concern is not the nationality of any particular investor. It is the structural reality that entities linked to or controlled by foreign governments operate under obligations and incentives that are fundamentally different from those of private American landowners or family farmers — and that those obligations can, in certain circumstances, be weaponized against American interests.
- **Diplomatic integrity:** Protecting American farmland from foreign state-linked acquisition is not a hostile act. It is a standard exercise of sovereign authority practiced by virtually every major nation on earth. The United States should not be uniquely vulnerable on this dimension while seeking to lead on others.



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II. THE THREAT: WHAT FOREIGN STATE-LINKED OWNERSHIP OF FARMLAND MEANS

A. Strategic Dependency Is a Vulnerability

When foreign state-linked entities — sovereign wealth funds, state-owned enterprises, government-controlled corporations, or private entities operating under foreign government influence — acquire ownership of American agricultural land, the United States assumes a form of strategic dependency that is qualitatively different from ordinary foreign investment.

Agricultural land is not a financial instrument. It is the physical substrate of domestic food production. Control of that land, even partial control, confers the ability to influence what is grown, how it is processed, where it is sold, and — in extremis — whether the American food supply chain can be disrupted during a moment of international tension.

B. Proximity to Critical Infrastructure

Acquisition of agricultural land near military installations, defense research facilities, water infrastructure, and other critical national security assets is a distinct and serious threat. Agricultural land provides cover, observation points, and physical proximity that no amount of satellite surveillance can fully compensate for.

The Cordova Administration will direct the Department of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a full geographic analysis of foreign state-linked agricultural land holdings relative to all critical national infrastructure and military installations, and to provide recommended buffer zone restrictions.

C. Food Supply Chain Control

Ownership of agricultural land is the first link in the food supply chain. An entity that owns the land controls what is planted, what is harvested, and what enters the domestic and export supply chain. At scale, foreign state-linked ownership of American agricultural land creates the structural conditions for food supply chain leverage — the ability of a foreign government to influence American food availability, pricing, and nutritional content through the operational decisions of the entities it controls.



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The United States must not permit any foreign government to acquire this form of structural leverage over the American food supply. Diplomatic relationships change. Structural vulnerabilities persist.

D. The Scale of the Problem

The full extent of foreign state-linked ownership of American agricultural land is not yet comprehensively known, in part because reporting requirements have been inadequate and enforcement of existing disclosure laws has been inconsistent. What is known is significant:

- Foreign ownership of American agricultural land has grown substantially over the past two decades, with total foreign-held acreage reaching levels that warrant urgent national attention.
- Sovereign wealth funds from multiple regions of the world have invested directly or indirectly in American farmland through intermediary structures specifically designed to obscure ultimate beneficial ownership.
- Existing USDA reporting requirements under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act have been systematically underenforced, resulting in substantial gaps in the federal government's knowledge of the true extent of foreign agricultural land holdings.
- Land acquired near military installations and critical infrastructure has, in documented cases, involved ownership structures traceable to foreign state-linked entities.

III. THE CORDOVA ADMINISTRATION POLICY RESPONSE

A. Full Prohibition on Foreign State-Linked Entity Ownership

The Cordova Administration will prohibit any Foreign State-Linked Entity — defined as any foreign government, sovereign wealth fund, state-owned enterprise, or entity in which a foreign government holds five percent or more ownership or exercises operational influence — from acquiring any ownership interest, leasehold interest, or operational control over American agricultural land.

- Prospective prohibition takes effect on the date of the Executive Order.



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- Mandatory divestiture for currently held parcels within two years, with right of first refusal for American family farmers and American-owned agricultural entities.

Compensation and Goodwill Payment — No Financial Loss

The Cordova Administration recognizes that some foreign state-linked entities made investments in American agricultural land under prior law, in good faith, at a time when no such prohibition existed. Forcing divestiture without fair compensation would be unjust and diplomatically counterproductive. Therefore, the federal government will establish an Agricultural Land Repatriation Compensation Fund providing:

- Fair market value paid to the seller based on an Independent Federal Appraisal using the highest comparable sale within 50 miles in the preceding five years.
- An additional goodwill payment of 10% of appraised value — framed as recognition that the rules changed after investments were made in good faith under previous law.
- Low-interest transition loans to American buyers, prioritizing family farmers and state agricultural land trusts.

We regret that previous administrations did not establish these rules earlier. To honor the legitimate expectations of those who invested under the old system, we ensure no financial loss — but going forward, the rules are clear.

B. Mandatory Disclosure and Beneficial Ownership Transparency

The Cordova Administration will pursue legislation and regulation requiring:

1. Full beneficial ownership disclosure for all agricultural land transactions, piercing corporate and trust structures to identify the ultimate controlling party.
2. Mandatory reporting of all existing foreign-held agricultural parcels to the USDA within 90 days of enactment, with criminal penalties for failure to disclose.
3. Annual certification of compliance with the foreign ownership prohibition by all agricultural land title holders, with random audit authority vested in the USDA and DOJ.

C. Two-Tier Public and Classified Registry



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A National Agricultural Land Registry will be established with two tiers designed to balance public transparency with legitimate national security requirements:

Public Tier:

Aggregated data by county, acreage ranges, and country of origin — sufficient for transparency, journalism, and research without revealing precise geolocations that could themselves constitute a security vulnerability.

Classified Tier:

Precise geolocations of all foreign state-linked holdings, accessible only to authorized federal agencies (USDA, DOJ, DOD, DHS, ODNI) and cleared members of congressional oversight committees. The classified tier will be audited annually by the Government Accountability Office with a classified report to Congress.

D. Administrative Hearing Process for Operational Influence Determinations

When the government asserts that an entity exercises operational influence by a foreign state — even below the five percent ownership threshold — the following due process protections apply:

- An independent administrative law judge, not a political appointee, presides over a public hearing.
- The burden of proof rests on the government to demonstrate, by a preponderance of evidence, that the foreign government exercises operational influence over the entity's agricultural land decisions.
- The landowner has the right to counsel, to present evidence, and to appeal any adverse decision to federal district court.

This structure prevents abuse of executive authority, ensures fundamental fairness, and makes the policy legally durable against constitutional challenge.

E. CFIUS Reform: Agricultural Land as a Mandatory Review Category

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States will be directed to treat all proposed acquisitions of American agricultural land by any Foreign State-Linked Entity as a presumptive national security threat requiring mandatory full CFIUS review, regardless of transaction size or acreage. The Cordova Administration will work with Congress to amend the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act accordingly.

F. Military Proximity Buffer Zones



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No foreign state-linked entity may hold any interest in agricultural land within 50 miles of any military installation, defense research facility, nuclear facility, major water infrastructure asset, or other designated critical national security site. Currently held parcels within these buffer zones will be subject to expedited mandatory divestiture within 12 months. The Secretary of Defense may adjust the radius based on specific site security assessments.

G. Intelligence-Led Enforcement Task Force

A joint Agricultural Land Foreign Ownership Intelligence Task Force — comprising the USDA, DOJ, DHS, and ODNI — will be established to:

- Identify existing foreign state-linked agricultural land holdings through intelligence means where voluntary disclosure has not been made.
- Investigate ownership structures designed to obscure foreign state-linked beneficial ownership.
- Coordinate with allied nations on intelligence sharing related to foreign state-linked agricultural land acquisition.
- Recommend enforcement actions to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Agriculture.

IV. CLARIFICATION: PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE WELCOME

We are not closing America to the world. We are closing a specific vulnerability: foreign governments acquiring direct control over the land that feeds our people. Private capital, responsibly disclosed, remains a partner in American agriculture.

This policy applies only to foreign governments and entities they control or significantly influence. Private foreign investors — including pension funds, family offices, and individual investors from allied and non-allied nations alike — remain welcome to invest in American agriculture, subject only to the same beneficial ownership transparency requirements that apply to all agricultural land holders.

The distinction is structural, not national. A private investor from any country who discloses their identity and invests under American law is a partner. A sovereign wealth fund or state-controlled enterprise deploying government capital to acquire strategic



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control over American food infrastructure is a different matter entirely — regardless of the diplomatic relationship with the government behind it.

V. TOP TIER ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND CARE: A UNIFIED NATIONAL STANDARD

Protecting who owns the land is necessary but not sufficient. The Cordova Administration also commits to protecting how the land is farmed, how animals are raised, and what goes into the food that American families eat.

All agricultural operations on United States soil — whether privately foreign-owned, American-owned corporate, or family-owned — must meet a single enforceable Top Tier Organic Production and Care standard. No double standards. No race to the bottom. One standard, applied equally, locally and nationally.

A. The Standard

ELEMENT	STANDARD
Soil Health	No synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, or GMOs. Crop rotation, cover cropping, and minimal tillage required.
Animal Welfare	Free-range or pasture-based systems. Mandatory minimum space and outdoor access. No growth hormones, no routine antibiotics. Humane slaughter protocols certified by independent third party.
Input Transparency	Full disclosure of all seeds, soil amendments, and pest management materials. Prohibition of neonicotinoids, glyphosate, and other persistent synthetic pesticides.
Labor and Community	Fair wages and safe working conditions. Right of first refusal for local food hubs and school lunch programs before export.
Third-Party Certification	Annual inspection by federal or state-approved certifying body with unannounced spot checks. Penalties for fraud include loss of market access and fines.



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B. Transition Timeline — Graduated, Fair, and Enforceable

1. Years 1-2: Disclosure requirements take effect. Voluntary conversion incentives available, including tax credits, low-interest USDA loans, and free technical assistance for operations transitioning to the standard.
2. Year 3: All new agricultural operations, including those owned by private foreign investors, must meet the standard from inception.
3. Year 5: Fifty percent of production volume, measured by operation size, must meet the standard.
4. Year 7: One hundred percent of domestically produced food must meet the Top Tier standard. Limited exemptions apply only to very small direct-to-family farms with annual revenue under \$250,000, which may opt into a simplified but still organic-based alternative standard.

C. Enforcement and Market Access

- Any operation found in violation of the Top Tier standard loses the right to sell its products in interstate commerce until corrective action is independently certified.
- The USDA will maintain a publicly accessible Top Tier Certified registry, updated in real time, so consumers can verify the status of any producer before purchase.
- Imported food must meet an equivalent standard to be sold in the United States, consistent with WTO sanitary and phytosanitary rules. The United States will pursue bilateral and multilateral agreements to establish mutual recognition of equivalent standards with allied nations.

VI. DIPLOMATIC FRAMEWORK: SOVEREIGNTY WITHOUT HOSTILITY

A. The Universal Principle

Virtually every major agricultural nation on earth maintains restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural land. The United States is not imposing a new standard. It is joining a global consensus that it has been, for too long, uniquely slow to act on. Nations that already maintain such restrictions are in no position to object.



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B. Reciprocal Engagement

The Cordova Administration will engage foreign governments in direct diplomatic dialogue on agricultural land ownership, framing this policy not as a restriction on bilateral relations but as an invitation to reciprocal transparency. Nations that do not restrict foreign ownership of their own agricultural land may wish to reconsider, given the strategic vulnerabilities that creates.

C. Separation of People and Policy

An immigrant family that has become American citizens farming American land is not the target of this policy. A sovereign wealth fund deploying government capital to acquire strategic control of American food production infrastructure is. The policy is aimed at the structure of government-linked control, not at the people of any nation.

D. Building Stronger Relationships Through Clarity

Nations that are clear about their sovereign limits are more trustworthy partners, not less. A United States that defines what it will and will not permit within its own sovereign territory — and enforces those limits consistently and without selectivity — is a more predictable and reliable ally than one whose policies can be overridden by financial pressure.

The Cordova Administration believes that protecting American farmland from foreign state-linked acquisition will make the United States a stronger diplomatic partner. We do not need to choose between sovereignty and friendship. We need only be honest about both.

VII. CONCLUSION

The land that feeds America must be controlled by Americans — and farmed in a way that honors the land, the animals, and the people who eat the food.

This policy is not a provocation. It is a responsibility. We can build strong relationships with the world, pursue trade and mutual benefit across every domain of international engagement, and protect our domestic food supply as a public health and national security imperative — all at the same time.

We do not need to choose between sovereignty and friendship. We need only be honest about both.



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