## USMCA: Agreements and Disputes

Raymond Robertson (robertson@tamu.edu)
The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

• U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico

•



- The United States is challenging measures set out in Mexico's February 13, 2023 decree, specifically the ban on use of biotech corn in tortillas or dough, and the instruction to Mexican government agencies to gradually substitute—i.e., ban—the use of biotech corn in all products for human consumption and for animal feed.
- On January 30, 2023, the United States sent a formal, written request to Mexico under the USMCA SPS Chapter (Article 9.6.14) for "an explanation of the reasons for" and "pertinent relevant information regarding" certain Mexican measures concerning biotechnology products.
- In March 2023, the United States <u>requested</u> and held technical consultations with Mexico regarding its biotechnology measures under the USMCA SPS Chapter, but the consultations did not resolve the matter.
- In June 2023, the United States <u>requested</u> and held dispute settlement consultations with Mexico regarding its biotechnology measures under the USMCA Dispute Settlement Chapter, but these consultations also failed to resolve the matter.
- United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced August 17, 2023 that the United States is establishing a USMCA dispute settlement panel for biotech corn

• A year ago Canada and Mexico filed a complaint against the United States over how to apply automotive-sector content requirements under the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) free trade agreement, which came into effect in 2020.