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Not Being Made Whole

Worthy of much more shipping coverage in our opinion is that the US Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced last week that Trump's \$12 billion aid package will not make US farmers whole. According to Perdue, the aid package “ is not going to make farmers whole”.... I liken it to any kind of insurance claim. If you have a crash in your car and it is totaled, you get a check from the insurance company, but most of us never feel like we were made whole... “I think we’re just trying to make the expectation that if farmers see a \$2 drop in soybean prices, then they should not necessarily expect a \$2-per-bushel mitigation payment.”

To us, this is a real problem. It is frustrating enough for farmers to be receiving government assistance through no fault of their own, but if farmers also receive even one cent less in total revenue than they would have if the tariffs were not in place, Trump and Republicans are going to have many unhappy voters on their hands. By admitting that the aid package will not make farmers whole, this has softened the blow in advance of farmers receiving their checks -- but it also has diminished the impact that the aid package (and the previous announcement of the aid package) was meant to have. The upcoming mid-term elections in the United States remain very significant where the trade war is concerned, and the ongoing trade war and the Trump administration's response continues to hurt some Republicans' chances of securing mid-term victories. It remains in much interest of US farmers, President Trump, and Republican's running in the upcoming elections that the trade war comes to an end before US soybean export season begins in earnest in September.

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