

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 27, 2026

Mr. Bruce Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Taylor Fresh Foods (Taylor Farms)
150 Main Street, Suite 300
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mr. Taylor,

When Americans go to buy produce at the grocery store or order a Crunchwrap Supreme, they trust that the food they buy will be safe to consume. Over the last few weeks, however, this trust has been broken as thousands have been sickened by a national cyclosporiasis outbreak. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said that the outbreak is “under control,” yet that seems far from true as cases continue to rise.¹ Evidence points to Taylor Farms products as a source of the outbreak,² but reports indicate that your company may have attempted to influence the ongoing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigation into the matter, obfuscate Taylor Farms’ role in a public health crisis, and mislead consumers trying to keep their families safe.³ Oversight Democrats are investigating Taylor Farms’ role in the national cyclosporiasis outbreak and any further threat to Americans’ health and safety.

In 2025 alone, Taylor Farms donated more than \$2 million to political action committees tied to President Donald Trump and other Republicans and spent over \$810 million on lobbying related to food safety regulation.⁴ Last March, Taylor Farms donated \$1 million to MAGA Inc., President Trump’s super PAC.⁵ This massive donation occurred less than one week after the

¹ *RFK Jr. Says Cyclosporiasis Outbreak is “Under Control” As Mexico Casts Doubt on Link to Taylor Farms Facility*, NBC News (July 21, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/rfk-jr-says-cyclosporiasis-outbreak-control-mexico-casts-doubt-link-ta-rcna588604).

² *Tracking The Largest Cyclosporiasis Outbreak in the US*, CNN (July 22, 2026) (online at www.cnn.com/2026/07/21/health/cyclospora-cases-count); *FDA Still Focused on Taylor Farms Lettuce as Cyclospora Source Despite Retracted Test*, NPR (July 20, 2026) (online at www.npr.org/2026/07/20/nx-s1-5901356/fda-focused-taylor-farms-lettuce-cyclospora-source-despite-retracted-test).

³ *Taylor Farms Backtracks After Trying To Hide Role in Diarrhea Outbreak*, New Republic (July 21, 2026) (online at <https://newrepublic.com/post/213347/taylor-farms-yanks-fda-apologized-explosive-diarrhea>).

⁴ *Taylor Farms Spent Big on MAGA And Anti-Regulatory Lobbying Before Diarrhea Outbreak*, Wired (July 21, 2026) (online at www.wired.com/story/diarrhea-outbreak-taylor-farms-maga-donations-lobbying/); *Taylor Farms Political Donations Questioned Amid Cyclosporiasis Outbreak*, FOX 40 (July 20, 2026) (online at <https://fox40.com/news/cyclosporiasis-outbreak/taylor-farms-political-donations-cyclosporiasis-outbreak/>).

⁵ Federal Election Committee, *Schedule A (FEC Form 3X) Itemized Receipts* (Mar. 26, 2024) (online at

Trump Administration agreed to delay implementation of a critical food safety rule that would make it easier to trace contaminated produce back to suppliers and remove it from the food supply.⁶

On July 16, 2026, FDA announced that it identified a strong link between people falling ill with cyclosporiasis and consuming iceberg lettuce from Taco Bell locations in five states but did not publicly identify Taylor Farms as the source of that lettuce. Reporting indicates that, by that point, federal officials had already reached out to Taylor Farms, and Taylor Farms executives met privately with officials from both the White House and FDA on the evening of July 16 “to distance the company from the outbreak and cast doubt on the officials’ conclusion.”⁷ At the meeting, FDA shared information with Taylor Farms that prompted it to voluntarily recall its iceberg lettuce product the following day.⁸ That day, FDA publicly identified your processing facility, Taylor Farms de Mexico, as a sole source provider of potentially contaminated lettuce.⁹

After Taylor Farms issued its voluntary 27-state recall, FDA announced a positive *cyclospora* test result implicating iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms’ facility, which the agency then retracted. Public health experts note that a false positive is not unusual for a parasite of this kind.¹⁰ Regardless of the fact that the false positive does not exonerate Taylor Farms from a role in the outbreak and that “overwhelming epidemiological data” points to Taylor Farms’ involvement, Taylor Farms posted on social media that FDA “apologized” to the company—a claim which FDA denied.¹¹

This timeline of events raises concerns that your company may have attempted to leverage political donations and connections inside the Trump Administration to influence the scope, scale, and findings of FDA’s investigation. Further, your company’s series of contradictory and confusing statements appear to be deliberately worded to make customers think recalled products are safe. For example, on July 19, 2026, Taylor Farms said, “To be clear,

<https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?202507319789366251>).

⁶ *The Real Trump Scandal in the Explosive Diarrhea Outbreak Story*, Slate (July 22, 2026) (online at <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2026/07/trump-scandal-explosive-diarrhea-taylor-farms-donor.html>); *FDA Delays FSMA 204 Traceability Rule Compliance Date by 30 Months*, Food Safety Magazine (Mar. 20, 2025) (online at www.food-safety.com/articles/10245-fda-delays-fsma-204-traceability-rule-compliance-date-by-30-months); Federal Election Committee, *Schedule A (FEC Form 3X) Itemized Receipts* (Mar. 26, 2024) (online at <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?202507319789366251>).

⁷ *The Real Trump Scandal in the Explosive Diarrhea Outbreak Story*, Slate (July 22, 2026) (online at <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2026/07/trump-scandal-explosive-diarrhea-taylor-farms-donor.html>); *Cyclospora Investigation Turns to Farms in Mexico*, New York Times (July 17, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/07/17/health/cyclospora-taylor-farms-mexico-taco-bell-lettuce.html?smid=url-share).

⁸ *Retailers Remove More Taylor Farms Lettuce After Recall in 27 States*, New York Times (July 18, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/07/18/health/taylor-farms-iceberg-lettuce-recall.html).

⁹ U.S. Food and Drug Administration, *Investigation of 5-State Outbreak of Cyclospora Illnesses: Iceberg Lettuce* (July 2026) (online at www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/investigation-5-state-outbreak-cyclospora-illnesses-iceberg-lettuce-july-2026) (accessed July 23, 2026).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Taylor Farms Backtracks After Trying to Hide Role in Diarrhea Outbreak*, New Republic (July 21, 2026) (online at <https://newrepublic.com/post/213347/taylor-farms-yanks-fda-apologized-explosive-diarrhea>).

at this moment, FDA has not identified a single positive product test result for *Cyclospora*.”¹² This may be technically true, but epidemiologists—including experts who previously ran FDA investigations—agree that the overwhelming evidence suggests that your lettuce made people sick.¹³ Taylor Farms also announced that “No Taylor Farms branded products are involved in this recall.” This statement appears to be contradicted by your actual product recall list, which includes several “TF” brand food service items.¹⁴

Grocery shoppers are frustrated and confused by your company’s decision not to publish a full, clear, and detailed list of impacted grocery stores and restaurants.¹⁵ The Trump Administration has told customers not to eat shredded lettuce at Taco Bell, yet the scope of your recall and decisions by major food suppliers like Sysco to pull a significant portion of your iceberg lettuce from distribution—apparently at your request—indicate that more products could be contaminated than the Trump Administration is telling the public.¹⁶

As one of the country’s largest producers of leafy greens and fresh vegetables that supplies \$7 billion worth of products to grocery stores and restaurants, Taylor Farms has an obligation to do all in its power to protect customers.¹⁷ Customers, in turn, should be able to trust that FDA’s critical work keeping us safe from foodborne illness is not unduly influenced by a company’s attempts to interfere with findings that affect our collective public health.

To assist Oversight Democrats’ investigation, I request the following documents and information, as well as a briefing on these topics, no later than August 10, 2026:

1. All communications between Taylor Fresh Foods, Taylor Farms, and Bruce Taylor, or any representative of Taylor Fresh Foods, Taylor Farms, Bruce Taylor, and federal agencies including but not limited to FDA, CDC, and USDA regarding *cyclospora* or cyclosporiasis, between May 1, 2026, and present;
2. All communications between Taylor Fresh Foods, Taylor Farms, or Bruce Taylor and the White House between January 21, 2025, and present;

¹² Taylor Farms, *Taylor Fresh Foods Statement Regarding Cyclospora Outbreak* (online at www.taylorfarms.com/newsroom/taylor-fresh-foods-statement-regarding-cyclospora-outbreak/) (accessed July 23, 2026).

¹³ *FDA Retracts Test Result but Still Links Taylor Farms Lettuce to Cyclosporiasis*, Washington Post (July 20, 2026) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2026/07/20/taylor-farms-still-linked-parasite-outbreak-despite-false-positive-fda-says/).

¹⁴ Taylor Farms, *Taylor Fresh Foods Statement Regarding Cyclospora Outbreak* (online at www.taylorfarms.com/newsroom/taylor-fresh-foods-statement-regarding-cyclospora-outbreak/) (accessed July 23, 2026).

¹⁵ Consumer Federation of America, *Taylor Farms’ Recall Notice Is Outrageous* (July 21, 2026) (online at <https://consumerfed.org/news/blogs/taylor-farms-recall-notice-is-outrageous/>).

¹⁶ *Taylor Farms to Remove Some Products After Link to Cyclosporiasis Cases*, New York Times (July 17, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/07/17/business/cyclospora-taylor-farms-lettuce.html?eafs_enabled=false).

¹⁷ *Id.*

3. All internal communications related to *cyclospora* and cyclosporiasis between May 1, 2026, and present;
4. All documents and communications related to the July 17, 2026, Taylor Farms de Mexico iceberg lettuce recall; and
5. All documents and communications related to sanitary conditions, quality control, or contamination at Taylor Farms de Mexico facilities, including but not limited to inspection, audit, risk assessment reports, or analysis between January 1, 2013, and present.

Additionally, I request written responses to the following no later than August 10, 2026:

1. A full and complete list of retailers and restaurants that received produce recalled on July 17, 2026;
2. A detailed account of the steps Taylor Farms took to notify retailers and restaurants that they received recalled produce;
3. A detailed account of the steps Taylor Farms took to pull recalled produce from the U.S. market;
4. How did Taylor Farms determine what products should be recalled on July 17, 2026?
5. Has Taylor Farms identified additional products that may be contaminated with *cyclospora* beyond products recalled on July 17, 2026, and if so, is Taylor Farms taking steps to pull these products from the market?

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman