Pact with China would halt latest round of tariffs

Tyler Jett, David Davidson and Paul Davidson

Iowa politicians, farmers and business leaders were cautiously optimistic about a Chinese trade agreement that President Donald Trump announced “in principle” Friday.

But some said they wanted more specifics from the White House, citing other times over the past year when expected relief from trade tensions failed to materialize.

“All of these things are positive,” said Grant Kimbrel, director of market development for the Iowa Soybean Association. “But there’s a whole lot of details that have to get worked out. Certainly, this is not a final deal. We have seen this before.”

Trump said Friday during a White House visit by Chinese Vice Premier Liu He that he had reached an agreement. “But there’s a whole lot of details that have to get worked out. Certainly, this is not a final deal. We have seen this before.”

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“I was nevertheless incredulous that the U.S. government chose to remove an ambassador based, as best as I can tell, on unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives.”

The former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whose removal was a key part of the impeachment inquiry, appeared on Capitol Hill Friday for a deposition in the Democratic impeachment inquiry.

“It was a concerted campaign against me and that Trump had pressed for her removal.”

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President Donald Trump shakes hands with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Friday. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Yovanovitch appeared on Capitol Hill Friday for a deposition in the Democratic impeachment inquiry. The Democratic chairman of three House committees says she was ousted after they learned that the State Department had directed Yovanovitch not to testify.

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Maria Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, testifies before the House impeachment inquiry Friday. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

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