

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
6007 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack,

Following the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, we would like to underscore the importance of a few critical implementation components related to dairy trade. At this stage, it is essential to underscore the importance of current and TPP dairy market access commitments. Below are three key elements that we believe are priority areas to address as part of U.S. efforts to prepare for Congressional consideration of this agreement.

1. Given Canada's demonstrated track record of actively working to limit U.S. dairy exports, the Administration should take steps to ensure that Canada not only implements its TPP commitments on dairy but equally importantly does not alter existing avenues for U.S. access to the Canadian market, absent the emergence of legitimate new food safety issues. Too often, U.S. dairy exports bear the brunt of regulatory actions or interpretation shifts designed to limit U.S. access to the Canadian dairy market. It is critical that this pattern does not continue, which is why we urge you to convey to Canada our strong concerns about efforts to block current or future access opportunities. We look forward to partnering with you to help ensure that current access to Canada is not undermined, and that dairy access provided under TPP genuinely moves access forward.
2. The TPP geographical indications (GIs) provisions are viewed by both the dairy industry and the Administration as an important advancement. The Foreign Agriculture Service's detailed TPP fact sheet on agriculture notes that: "The TPP will enhance due process and transparency disciplines on the use of GIs to address the growing concerns of U.S. producers and traders, whose access to foreign markets can be undermined through overly expansive GI protections." The TPP outcome reflects the clear understanding among TPP parties about the importance of dealing with this issue in an even-handed manner in order to avoid unduly restricting market access opportunities. Recent reports have raised concerns about how Japan may deal with this issue. This issue is particularly timely this year as TPP countries actively conduct or implement their own negotiations with the European Union, which has previously used its FTAs to constrain U.S. competition in numerous markets. TPP's GI obligations are an important step to help keep the doors open to U.S. products, making it vital that we ensure our TPP trading partners, particularly critical markets such as Japan, are not acting in a manner that is out of keeping with the intent of those commitments.
3. As part of TPP, the U.S. committed to ultimately eliminate duties on Australian imports under one cheese tariff line and on Canadian and New Zealand imports under another cheese line. As the U.S. prepares to implement the transitional tariff-rate quotas and eventually

provide duty-free access for products under these two tariff lines, we ask that the Administration establish procedures to ensure that our trading partners are shipping products fully in compliance with the terms of access granted to them. Similarly, further details on how the U.S. will institute automatic implementation of U.S. safeguards under TPP is another important area requiring greater clarity.

As we continue to weigh the merits of this agreement in preparation for Congressional action, we would appreciate your prioritization of these concerns. Each of these considerations will be an important factor in how we view the overall agreement.

Sincerely,


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

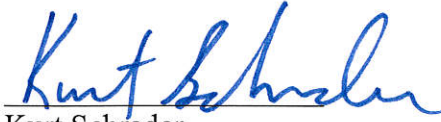

Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress


David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

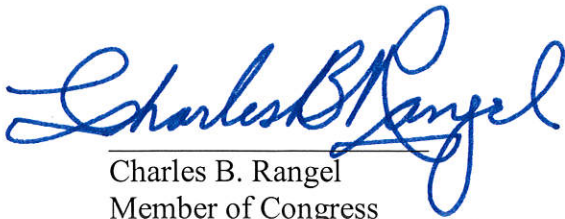

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Dennis Ross
Member of Congress


Brad Ashford
Member of Congress


Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

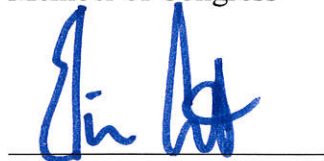

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress


Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

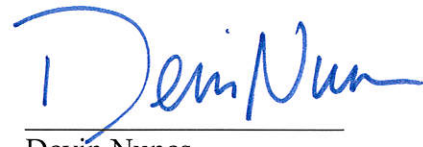

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

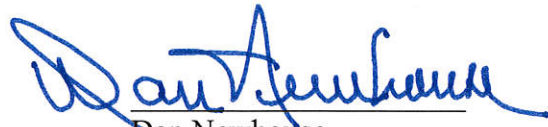

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

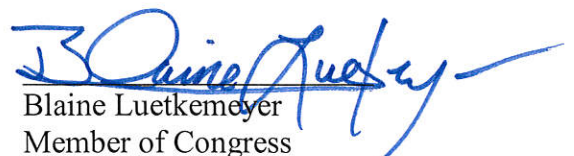

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


John Moolenaar
Member of Congress


Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


Jeff Denham
Member of Congress


Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress



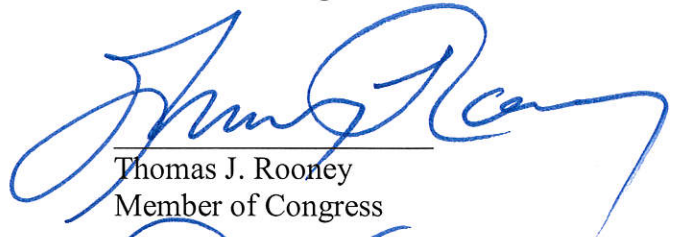
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



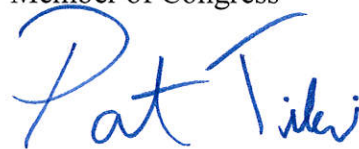
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress




Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress

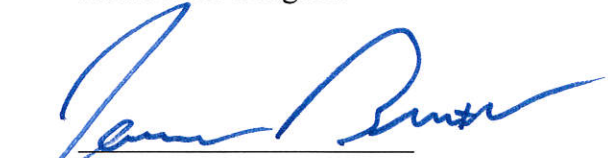

Rod Blum
Member of Congress


Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress


Jim Renacci
Member of Congress


Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress


Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress


Jason Smith
Member of Congress


Lou Barletta
Member of Congress