**NOTE: MOST PUBLICATIONS’ OP-ED WORD COUNT LIMITS ARE 400 TO 600 WORDS. AS YOU PERSONALIZE THE DRAFT PIECE PLEASE CHECK THE LIMIT OF THE PUBLICATION YOU ARE TARGETING AND ADJUST AS NEEDED.**

**Company Op-Ed Template – USMCA**

[Company] works hard to produce high-quality dairy products right here in America and we are proud to provide good-paying jobs and invest in the economic health of our communities. As demand for our products is growing overseas, free and fair trade has become an increasingly important issue for the continued success of our company.

That is why we are asking Congress to move quickly to secure additional export opportunities and ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Twenty-five years ago, NAFTA helped America become one of the leading exporters of agricultural products. USMCA takes that achievement a step further by improving the agreement in a number of ways to make sure it can work well for America in the 21st century.

Last year, the U.S. dairy industry that our company is proud to be a part of exported $5.6 billion in dairy goods, with more than one quarter of those sales flowing south to Mexico, by far America’s largest dairy customer. All told, the equivalent of 2.8 million gallons of milk crossed the border into Mexico every day last year in products ranging from cheese to ice cream to milk powder.

These exports abroad have a significant impact here at home, generating economic activity and strengthening the rural economy. From the farmers who supply our milk to companies like ours that manufacture superior dairy products, thousands of jobs across our industry rely on trade with foreign markets. In fact, the USDA estimates that every $1 billion in agricultural exports supports 8,400 American jobs – many of those in areas of this country where we need them the most.

Thanks in part to the opportunities generated by our trade relationships, [Company Name] is able to support the communities where we operate. [Insert information about number of employees/farms if possible.]

USMCA will help keep those jobs in the heartland, including here in [state/town] and set us up to expand them even further.

This agreement strengthens our vital trading relationship with Mexico and preserves America’s role as Mexico’s key dairy supplier. USMCA also increases trade opportunities in Canada and reforms a controversial Canadian milk pricing system that has hurt U.S. dairy exports. Altogether, those changes will ensure the U.S. can better compete in global dairy markets. USMCA will ultimately bolster U.S. dairy sales to Canada, Mexico and other global markets by over $314 million a year, according to the independent U.S. International Trade Commission.

Passing this trade agreement will upgrade NAFTA deal to better work for American companies, workers and farmers, and demonstrate to our allies that America is a reliable trading partner.

The time is now. Congress and the Administration need to work together to support America’s agricultural producers and successfully pass USMCA.