

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Juan Carlos Pinzón
Ambassador of Colombia to the United States
Embassy of Colombia
1724 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ambassador Pinzón:

We write to express our concern regarding Colombia's June 21, 2021, announcement of an investigation into U.S. milk powder imports. Since the United States—Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) went into effect in 2012, our countries have enjoyed an era of mutually beneficial trade flows. Any such trade would be threatened if safeguard actions are placed on U.S. milk powder imports, and we urge you and the entire Colombian government to refrain from imposing any trade barriers.

The TPA has showcased countless advantages, including expanded access to services markets, meaningful progress on labor rights, and export diversification. Within two years of enactment, Colombia diversified its export base with 1,609 companies exporting goods to the United States for the first time. The United States also is Colombia's largest trading partner, with U.S. goods and services traded totaling an estimated \$40.7 billion in 2019. Exports were \$22.0 billion; imports were \$18.7 billion. Trade flows between our countries are clearly influential drivers of economic prosperity and longevity.

Safeguard actions against milk powder imports would stalemate a significant portion of U.S. dairy product exports to Colombia. In 2020, whole milk powder accounted for about two-thirds of the total \$124 million worth of all dairy products exported. Colombia is the 11th largest export market for the United States and has proven instrumental to U.S. dairy farmers. Full implementation of the TPA is still underway – Colombia's tariffs on U.S. milk powder are dropping 2.2% each year until they reach zero in 2026. Enacting this safeguard would be detrimental to the final implementation of the agreement.

On behalf of the dairy farmers, processors, and the millions of jobs throughout the supply chain supported by dairy exports to Colombia, we stand ready to provide additional information that might be helpful in this process. We strongly urge you and your colleagues to reconsider any safeguard actions against U.S. milk powder imports. Negotiators on both sides fought hard to develop a TPA that is fair, proactive, and cooperative, and we look forward to continued

successes within this agreement. We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and hope to maintain a running dialogue on our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Valadao', written over a horizontal line.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angie Craig', written over a horizontal line.

Angie Craig
Member of Congress