

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 20, 2019

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

We write today to voice serious concerns regarding reports that the Administration plans to move forward with a bilateral trade agreement with Japan that lacks critical provisions for the U.S. dairy market. With U.S. dairy losing out on market share in Japan due to more favorable access given to other trading competitors, we believe that this would be a serious blow to the long-term competitiveness of the dairy industry in this critical export market.

Dairy farmers throughout the country have been struggling to adjust to decreased access in key export markets throughout the world due to the President's errant trade policies. When the Administration announced its intentions to negotiate a new trade agreement with Japan, Congress eagerly awaited the statutorily required consultations and notifications to ensure any new agreement would include access for key agriculture sectors like dairy. Unfortunately, those consultations did not happen until after the Administration already struck a deal with Japan. Only at the eleventh hour did we learn that the Administration potentially failed to acquire a truly level playing field for U.S. dairy exporters into Japan.

Despite the President frequently asserting that his negotiations would lead to the best trade agreements for our farmers, we now are finding that his agreement would achieve inferior market access for U.S. dairy compared to competitors like the European Union and signatories of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP) on exports such as cheese, butter, skim milk powder, ice cream, and condensed milk. Further, there appears to be no agreement on geographic indicators (GIs), which could impact our cheese exporters due to the EU's prolific use of GIs to limit market access for U.S. dairy products around the world.

I request that you provide us with information on how your office intends to support our dairy farmers in this agreement. U.S. dairy farmers are the best in the world, but they need a fair playing field if they are to compete in a global marketplace. Please let me know if you require any further information from our offices.

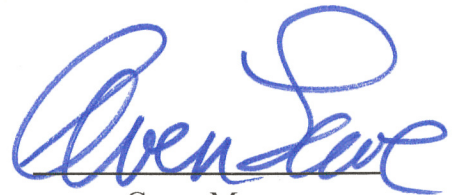
Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress