



December 12, 2019

Dear [Representative/Senator],

On behalf of America's dairy farmers and manufacturers, we are writing to express our strong support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This trade deal provides new opportunities for American-made food and farm products and contains several provisions specifically focused on improving export prospects for the U.S. dairy industry. Congress must now swiftly ratify USMCA and work with the Administration to ensure its provisions are implemented with good faith and enforced accordingly. Every day of delay in approving this agreement is one more day our industry must wait for the agreement's upgrades to NAFTA, including USMCA's elimination of Canada's harmful Class 7 dairy program, to take effect.

Passage of this trade agreement is critical to America's dairy industry. USMCA will expand trade with our most valuable partners, securing immediate and tangible benefits for America's dairy farmers, manufacturers and our rural communities.

USMCA makes fundamental changes to our trade rules to better facilitate the smooth flow of U.S. dairy products to Canada and Mexico. This includes changes to Canada's trade-distorting policies, reforms to Canada's controversial dairy pricing system and provisions providing exclusive new access to the Canadian market for U.S. dairy farmers and manufacturers. The trade deal also strengthens our relationship with Mexico and establishes new protections for common cheese names, using a combination of approaches to protect the continued use of a number of generic cheese terms, such as parmesan and feta. Additional improvements made during negotiations between Congress and the Administration will provide the U.S. with improved enforcement mechanisms to help ensure USMCA's reforms are put into place.

Implementation of USMCA's trade provisions will secure new market opportunities and is needed to bolster the nascent economic recovery of America's dairy industry. Our industry estimates that USMCA will add \$548 million to dairy-farm revenues in the first six years after implementation.

After all the bipartisan work that has been invested in crafting such a strong agreement, it is essential for Congress to move without delay to vote on this important agreement and send a strong message to our trading partners that the U.S. is eager to forge valuable trade agreements, modeled off the strides made in USMCA. We encourage all members of Congress to support the fair trade of U.S. dairy products by working to expeditiously pass USMCA.

Sincerely,



Thomas Vilsack
President and CEO
U.S. Dairy Export Council



Jim Mulhern
President and CEO
National Milk Producers Federation