Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack:

As the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) talks move into their final stages, we write to urge you once again to do everything possible to secure meaningful new market access for U.S. dairy farmers and manufacturers in order to obtain a balanced dairy outcome.

We appreciate your continued efforts to seek new trade opportunities for the U.S. dairy sector, but we are very troubled by reports that Canada has still not seriously engaged with TPP partners on dairy issues. We are also intent on ensuring that agricultural negotiations with Japan yield significant and comprehensive market access that will expand over time. Increases in U.S. dairy export opportunities are particularly important given strong interest from other TPP partners in increasing their own access to our market.

We recognize that you must juggle a wide range of priorities as the negotiations conclude. However, as you are aware from recent committee hearings as well as more informal discussions with Congress, we believe that winning an overall positive market access result for the U.S. dairy industry is critical to the success of the TPP negotiations.

In closing, we hope you will continue to do everything possible to negotiate a successful, balanced outcome for dairy trade that creates robust opportunities for everyone. We thank you for your work and we stand ready to work with you as the process comes to a conclusion.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

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