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Obama Administration to Ensure Trans-Pacific Partnership Benefits not Undermined

Urged by Members of Congress

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USPA NEWS - Key members of the U.S. House of Representatives issued a strong statement on April 22, affirming the need for the Obama Administration to take concrete steps to address implementation and enforcement issues related to dairy provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement...

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Led by Reps. Suzan DelBene, Reid Ribble, Ron Kind and David Valadao, 47 House members (including leaders of the House Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee and the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee) signed a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack underscoring 'critical implementation components related to dairy trade.'

The U.S. Dairy Export Council, National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association commend the action, which called on Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack to address three dairy 'priority areas' in TPP as Congress prepares to consider the agreement :

- Ensuring Canada faithfully implements its TPP commitments and also does not alter existing avenues for U.S. market access.
- Ensuring U.S. trading partners, particularly major markets such as Japan, adhere to the intent of the TPP agreement's geographical indication (GI) commitments.
- Establishing U.S. procedures to actively ensure compliance with the terms of the market access that the U.S. will provide to TPP trading partners.

The House message echoes a joint letter USDEC, NMPF and IDFA sent to Ambassador Froman and Secretary Vilsack on April 19. This industry message also urged action by the Administration to address critical TPP implementation and enforcement issues.

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), Washington, D.C., represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industries and their suppliers, with a membership of 550 companies within a $125-billion a year industry. IDFA is composed of three constituent organizations: the Milk Industry Foundation (MIF), the National Cheese Institute (NCI) and the International Ice Cream Association (IICA). IDFA's nearly 200 dairy processing members run nearly 600 plant operations.

The U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) is a non-profit, independent membership organization that represents the global trade interests of U.S. dairy producers, proprietary processors and cooperatives, ingredient suppliers and export traders. Its mission is to enhance U.S. global competitiveness and assist the U.S. industry to increase its global dairy ingredient sales and exports of U.S. dairy products.

The National Milk Producers Federation, based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the wellbeing of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies.

Source : International Dairy Foods Association

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