United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 24, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman United States Trade Representative 600 17th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We write to request your support for ensuring the domestic dairy industry gains significant market access benefits across all products in ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. It is critical that any final TPP agreement provides meaningful benefits to our dairy producers and processors.

Specifically, we urge you to make the following three issues a top priority:

- 1. <u>Increase market access and reduce tariffs in Canada</u>. Canada is a leading export market for our dairy products, valued at \$592 million in 2014, notwithstanding exceptionally high tariffs that create barriers to our dairy products. However, most product is shipped under Canada's Import for Re-Export Program which ultimately returns to the United States. It is critical that Canada offers significant and commercially-meaningful market access to U.S. dairy products.
- 2. <u>Increase market access and reduce tariffs in Japan</u>. Japan is also a leading export market for our dairy products, valued at \$407 million in 2014, even though it imposes high tariffs and other trade barriers on our nation's dairy products. It is critical that TPP offers meaningful and expanded opportunities for our dairy products in Japan.
- 3. Ensure the domestic dairy industry gains significant market access in both Canada and Japan for key dairy commodities in a balanced way compared to any new market access granted to New Zealand's dairy industry into the United States. New Zealand exports 95 percent of its dairy products. If our dairy industry does not achieve comparable export gains in Japan and Canada as compared to those made by New Zealand into the United States, we are concerned that TPP could damage our industry's current export opportunities and domestic market share. This is yet another reason why significant market access gains for U.S. dairy products into Canada and Japan are essential for TPP.

Thank you for your attention to our request. We look forward to working with you to ensure TPP provides meaningful benefits to our nation's dairy industry.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein United States Senator

United States Senator

Patty Murray Ron Wyden **United States Senator** United States Senator Maria Cantwell Debbie Stabenow United States Senator United States Senator John Thune John Cornyn United States Senator **United States Senator** James E. Risch Robert P. Casey, Jr. **United States Senator** United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen Michael F. Bennet United States Senator United States Senator Jerry Moran Kirsten E. Gillibrand Jerry Moran **United States Senator** United States Senator Kelly a. ayotte John Hoeven Kelly Ayotte United States Senator United States Senator

United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp

United States Senator

Rob Portman United States Senator

Tarnmy Baldwin United States Senator

United States Senator

Cory Gardner United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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