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CONTACT:

Clemente Santiago
U.S. Dairy Export Council
PHONE: 703-528-3049
FAX: 703-528-3705
csantiago@usdec.org

Chris Galen
National Milk Producers Federation
PHONE: 703-243-6111
FAX: 703-841-9328
cgalen@nmpf.org

NMPF and USDEC Applaud Addition of Canada to Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations

The U.S. government announced today that Canada has been extended an invitation to actively join the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement negotiations.

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) strongly support Canada's participation in the TPP negotiations. Both groups agree that since Mexico has been invited to join the talks, it only makes sense for the third member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to join as well. However, whereas Mexico and the United States already have removed all dairy trade barriers between them, this is not the case with respect to trade between Canada and the United States—a situation which TPP must remedy, say the two organizations.

NMPF and USDEC trust that the approval by the U.S. government of Canada's participation in the TPP talks has been accompanied by a very clear understanding of U.S. expectations that all Canadian trade barriers against U.S. dairy products must be eliminated. This requirement is absolutely fundamental to gaining the groups' support.

“The U.S. dairy sector hopes to see significant gains from a well-negotiated TPP and welcomes Canada's membership as an important step towards achieving this goal,” said Jerry Kozak, president and CEO of NMPF. “The United States and Canada have had a free trade agreement since 1988, but it did not include dairy products. It is time for this oversight to be changed and we welcome this opportunity to finally make that happen.”



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Tom Suber, president of USDEC, agreed, pointing out that, “The U.S. dairy industry has tried for many years to not only gain new access to the Canadian dairy market, but also to battle Canada’s attempts to undermine the value of the very limited dairy concessions granted in past WTO trade agreements. Unfortunately, we have made little headway due to high tariff quotas that continue in place despite NAFTA and repeated steps by the Canadian government to introduce new regulatory barriers to our products.” Suber added, “Our industry will absolutely not support any agreement that does not address full market access for U.S. dairy products in the Canadian market.”

The two organizations look forward to early negotiation with Canada on the terms outlined so that clear dairy market access opportunities can begin to be realized.

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The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, Va., develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of U.S. dairy producers and the cooperatives they collectively own. The members of NMPF’s 30 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of nearly 32,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. For more on NMPF’s activities, visit www.nmpf.org.

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. USDEC accomplishes this through programs in market development that build global demand for U.S. dairy products, resolve market access barriers and advance industry trade policy goals. USDEC is supported by staff across the United States and overseas in Mexico, South America, Asia, Middle East and Europe.

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