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NATIONAL MILK  
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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **USDEC, NMPF Support Vice President's Call for Renewed Trade Discussions with India**

**Stress Importance of Trade in Safe Foods**

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) applauded U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's remarks during a speech yesterday in India calling for expanded trade between India and the United States. The vice president also pointed to the need to negotiate and work through barriers to market access, among other trade priorities.

"For far too long, a wide range of U.S. dairy products have been effectively locked out of the Indian market without sound scientific justification," said Tom Suber, president of USDEC. "U.S. dairy products are sold in over 100 markets around the world and are well known for their high level of food safety. We look forward to renewed discussions with India on how to remove inappropriate barriers to market access for safe products."

Jim Mulhern, chief operating officer of NMPF, agreed and adds, "As we focus on tearing down unwarranted trade barriers so that our industry can continue to grow, it is equally important to ensure that we also maintain a strong focus on food safety and product integrity. U.S. dairy products have an excellent track record in this area while India's own government has found serious problems with a majority of its dairy products."

In early 2012, NMPF called the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's attention to a study conducted by the Indian Food Safety and Standards Authority that found that 68% of



milk samples analyzed did not meet Indian standards. “Given these alarming findings, we believed it was important for FDA to determine if adulterated dairy products in India were entering the U.S. market,” Mulhern stated. “We are gratified that FDA agreed that concern is warranted and this summer put in place an import alert on certain dairy products from India.” The FDA import alert calls for the detention of specified dairy products from certain Indian exporters and requires further documentation to ensure that the products are complying with U.S. regulations designed to protect food safety.

“U.S. dairy exporters believe that trade between the United States and India can be mutually beneficial, particularly as India struggles to consistently meet its growing domestic dairy demand,” adds Suber. “As the U.S. and India reengage in talks aimed at improving bilateral trade, we must ensure that a focus on the importance of safe and accurately labeled food remains at the core of discussions on agricultural trade.”

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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.

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](http://www.nmpf.org).

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