

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2012

The Honorable John Bryson Secretary of Commerce 1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20230	Ambassador Ron Kirk U.S. Trade Representative 600 17 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20508	The Honorable Tom Vilsack Secretary of Agriculture 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250
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Dear Secretary Bryson, Ambassador Kirk and Secretary Vilsack,

We write to express our concern and frustration with the current status of the U.S.-India dairy trade, which has been at an impasse since 2003. India's unjustifiable restrictions have resulted in a nearly complete lack of access to the Indian market for the vast majority of U.S. dairy exports. We consider this to be an untenable situation in need of resolution and respectfully request your assistance to find a mutually satisfactory path forward.

This is an issue of significant importance to our constituent dairy farmers and the dairy product manufacturing companies that purchase their milk. The U.S. dairy industry employs over 400,000 Americans; exports play a critical role in creating and supporting jobs in this sector. In fact, last year the U.S. exported approximately 13 percent of its milk production, making access to export markets essential to maintaining a strong dairy sector throughout America.

The current impasse has resulted from India's requirement that health certificates for imports include certain provisions that do not appear to be compliant with India's obligations under the WTO Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) agreement. That agreement requires such measures to be based on sound science. We are appreciative of the considerable past efforts related to this matter but strongly urge you to prioritize resolving this matter in a way that recognizes the safety of U.S. dairy products and restores access for a significant segment of our exports.

The resolution of this situation will also restore equity and balance to the U.S.-India trading relationship. India clearly benefits through its export of a broad array of goods under the auspices of our Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program as well as through U.S. openness and commitment to adhering to our WTO Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Agreement requirements. Of note, India has been successful in rapidly growing its dairy sales to the United States; during the past several years, while U.S. dairy exports have been largely blocked from entry into India, India's dairy sales to the United States have increased from \$18 million in 2003 to \$80 million in 2010. In short, we're simply asking that U.S. dairy exporters enjoy reciprocal market access into India.

Additionally, allowing U.S. dairy products access to the Indian market may help make nutritional dairy products more affordable to disadvantaged consumers in India. Increased access for U.S. dairy products also would facilitate job creation within India's expanding dairy processing sector.

Accordingly, we urge you to impress upon the Indian government the importance of resolving this longstanding issue and request that you make dairy access a priority at Secretary Bryson's upcoming meetings with the Indian government in March and that your three agencies work together to continue to address this issue with India at other bilateral and multilateral meetings as well. Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



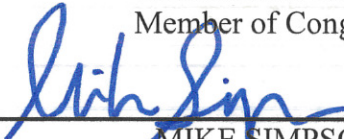
JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



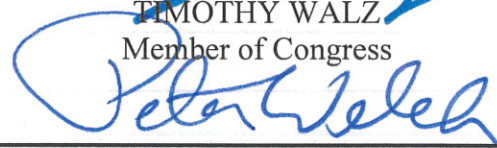
THOMAS E. PETRI
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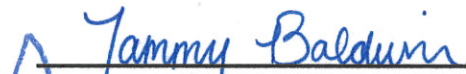
TIMOTHY WALZ
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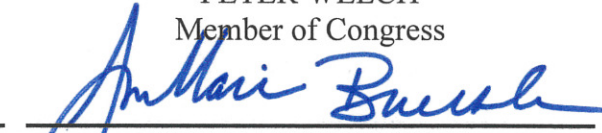
MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress



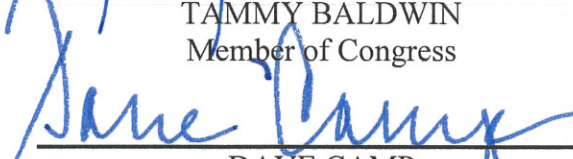
PETER WELCH
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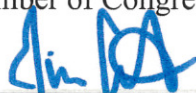
ANN MARIE BUERKLE
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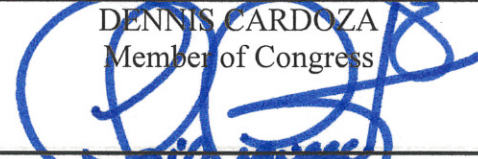
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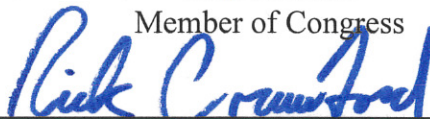
DENNIS CARDOZA
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JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



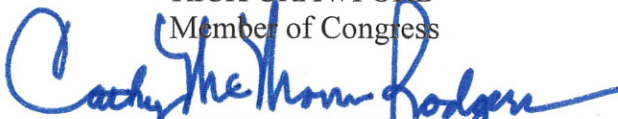
CHIP CRAVAACK
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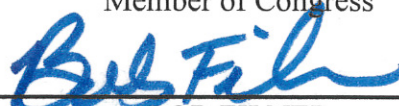
JEFF DENHAM
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CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



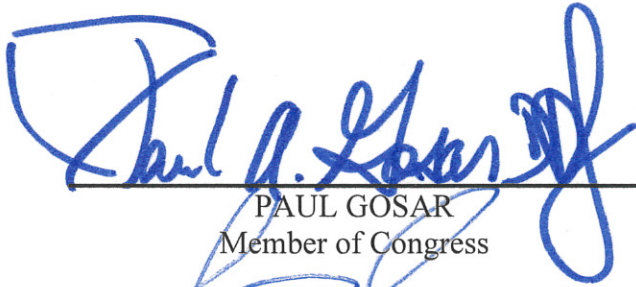
JO ANN EMERSON
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BOB FILNER
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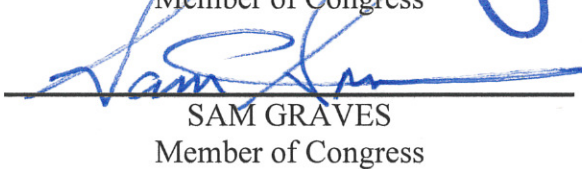
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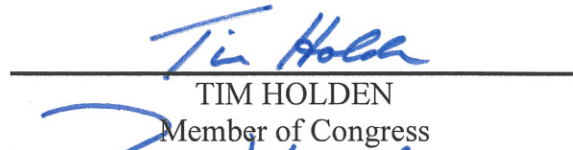
VICKY HARTZLER
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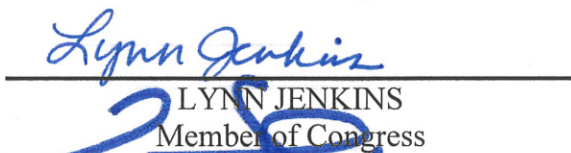
DOC HASTINGS
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KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL
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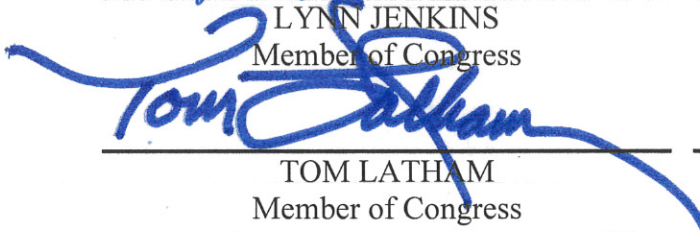
TIM HOLDEN
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LYNN JENKINS
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RON KIND
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TOM LATHAM
Member of Congress



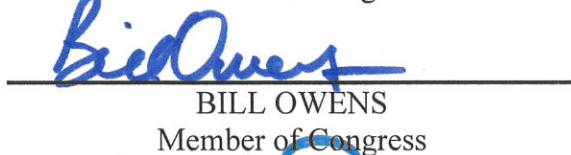
BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



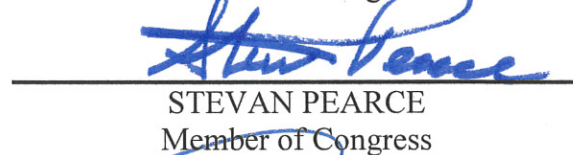
MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress



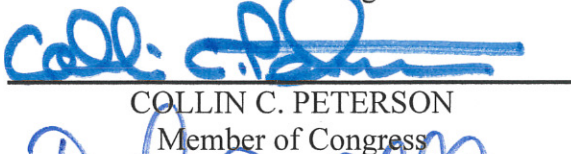
MICK MULVANEY
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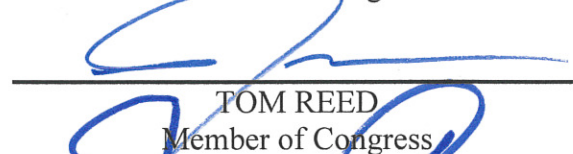
BILL OWENS
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COLLIN C. PETERSON
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TOM ROONEY
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GLENN THOMPSON
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LARRY KISSELL
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