



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

CONTACT:

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

Alan Levitt
U.S. Dairy Export Council
PHONE: 703-528-3049
alevitt@usdec.org

Dairy Groups Commend House for Resuming Progress on TPA Legislation

Trade Promotion Authority Crucial to Ensuring Positive Dairy Result in Pacific Rim Agreement

ARLINGTON, VA – The National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council today thanked the House of Representatives for resuming progress on Trade Promotion Authority by sending stand-alone TPA legislation to the Senate.

The two groups pledged to keep working with both the House and Senate to enact TPA and the important complementary legislation, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). They said Trade Promotion Authority in particular is key to negotiating a better deal for dairy farmers in the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership and future free trade agreements.

“Trade promotion authority is crucial to concluding trade agreements that will open foreign markets to more U.S. dairy products,” said NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern. “In the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, getting TPA in place is essential to increasing pressure on Japan and Canada to improve their offers. It will signal that the United States is serious about trade negotiations.”

USDEC President Tom Suber said, “Knowing that a trade agreement will be considered by Congress under Trade Promotion Authority paves the way to press our negotiating partners to make offers on the most sensitive issues that are commensurate with new and meaningful access. Clearly, dairy exports fall into that category, and the U.S. needs all the tools it can muster to get acceptable



terms from Japan and Canada that ensure the U.S. is able to secure expanded market access opportunities for all types of dairy products under TPP. Given this, we welcome today's strong step forward toward bringing TPA into law.”

TPA, which expired in 2007, is important to the U.S. dairy industry because the United States now exports the equivalent of one-seventh of its milk production. NMPF and USDEC have also supported TAA as a key portion of the U.S. legislative trade package.

###

The National Milk Producers Federation, 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 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 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 U.S. Dairy Export Council prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, political beliefs, marital status, military status, and arrest or conviction record. www.usdec.org