

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai,

Thank you for your work to ensure Minnesota dairy producers receive the full benefits of the access to Canada's dairy market afforded under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). We write to express concerns raised to us by dairy farmers in Minnesota regarding the recent Global Affairs Canada proposal to modify their USMCA dairy tariff-rate-quotas (TRQs) and respectfully urge you to reject the proposal and continue pressing for the full measure of access to the Canadian dairy market that was agreed to under USMCA.

As you know, Global Affairs Canada released their proposed changes to their TRQ allocations in early March, as required under the terms of the recent settlement agreement. Unfortunately, the Canadian proposal still fails to provide Minnesota dairy producers with the market access negotiated under USMCA.

For example, the proposal's butter allocation component is based on market share and excludes retailers further down the supply chain. For this reason, it preserves the dynamic of requiring U.S. butter processors to sell primarily to their direct competitors in Canada while other supply chain actors – such as retailers and restaurants – remain cut out of the TRQ allocation process. At bottom, the new Canadian proposal effectively preserves the status quo and fails to meet the standard of fair market access agreed to under USMCA.

Minnesota dairy producers are grateful for your work in successfully utilizing the agreement's dispute panel to rule that Global Affairs Canada is breaching its commitments to American agriculture. Yet the recent proposals from Global Affairs Canada reinforce the need to continue to hold Canada to those commitments. As members of Congress representing a major dairy producing state that shares a border with our northern neighbor, we respectfully urge you to reject Canada's TRQ proposal and continue pressing for the full measure of access to the Canadian dairy market that was agreed to under USMCA.

Sincerely,



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress