

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

We welcome the news that Canada was invited to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and see this as a valuable opportunity to expand our trade relationship with our strategic northern ally.

Canada is already our country's second largest dairy export market, despite the high tariffs and regulatory obstacles currently in place. Last year, total U.S. dairy sales to Canada amounted to \$443 million. Expanding trade opportunities between the United States and Canada could potentially yield billions of dollars in new business for America's dairy farmers.

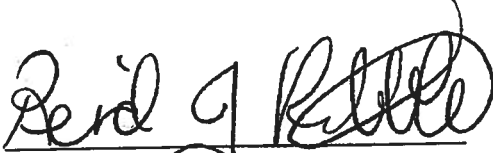
U.S. poultry exports to Canada in 2011 totaled over \$290 million, making our northern neighbor the third largest export market for U.S. poultry. The Canadian poultry supply management regime severely limits the quantity of U.S. poultry exported to Canada. At the same time, Canada is permitted to export its poultry to the United States with essentially no trade restrictions. With open and fair market access U.S. poultry exports to Canada would easily double, if not more, beyond current sales.

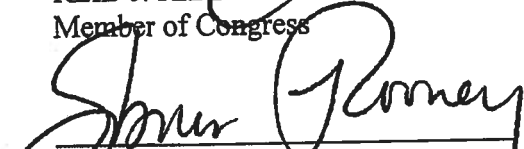
We urge you to ensure that the United States seizes this tremendous opportunity and works to eliminate existing Canadian tariffs levied against U.S. dairy and poultry products, two sectors that were effectively omitted from the Canadian portion of the North America Free Trade Agreement. We believe that TPP negotiations with Canada must address this shortcoming in that agreement by achieving full market liberalization between the United States and Canada for our dairy and poultry industries.

In addition, we also urge you to ensure that rules and mechanisms are created during the process to ensure that Canada and other countries cannot later craft sanitary and phytosanitary measures and other regulations that act as de facto barriers to expanded trade. Past Canadian actions with regard to dairy trade, for example, make this a legitimate and very relevant concern.


Thank you for your consideration of our request. As the TPP negotiations progress, we look forward to working with you to ensure that U.S. dairy and poultry producers have the best opportunity to compete and succeed in the global marketplace.

Sincerely,

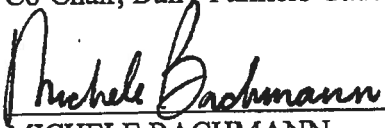

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Member of Congress


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Co-Chair, Dairy Farmers Caucus

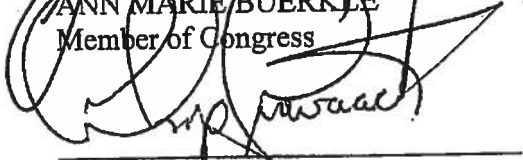

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Member of Congress


DAN BENISHEK
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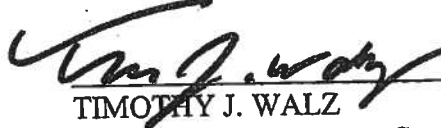

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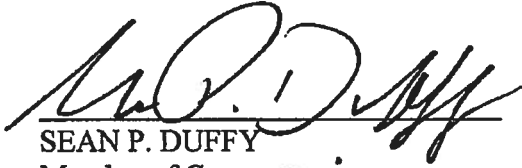

PETER WELCH
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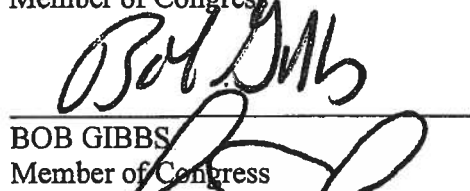

TAMMY BALDWIN
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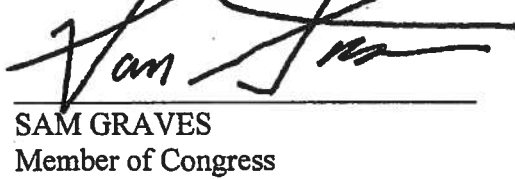

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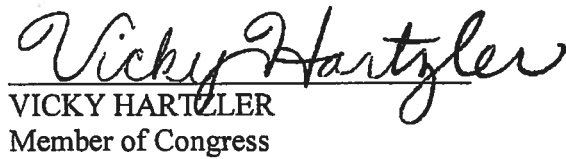

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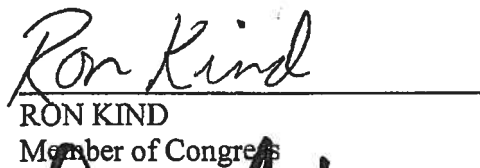

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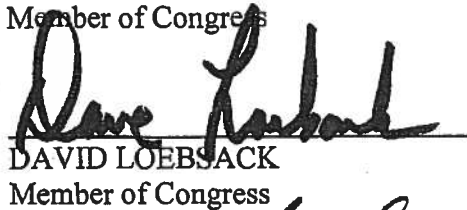

BOB GIBBS
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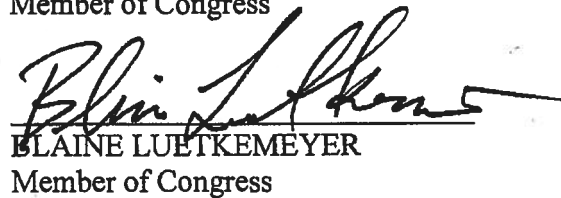

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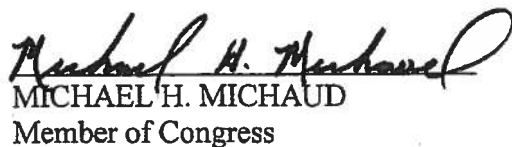

VICKY HARTLER
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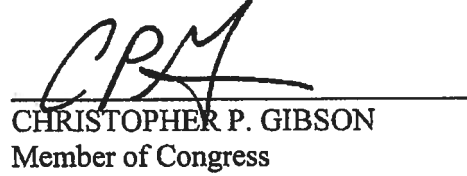

RON KIND
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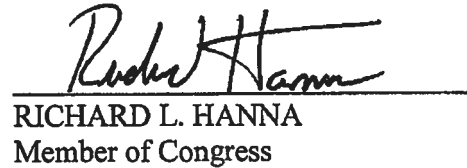

DAVID LOEBSACK
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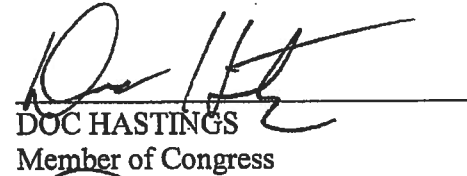

BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
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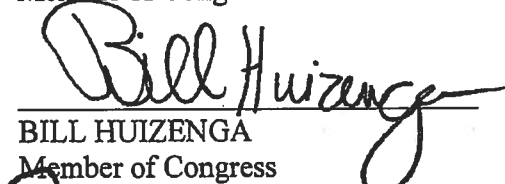

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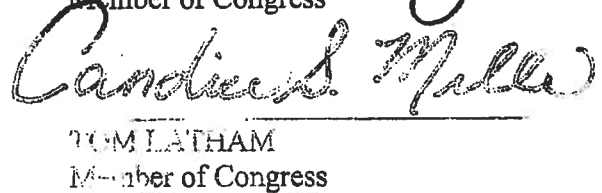

JO ANN EMERSON
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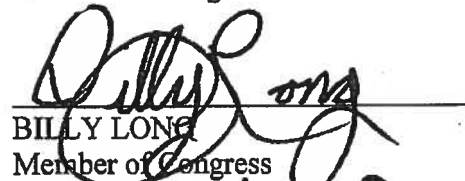

CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON
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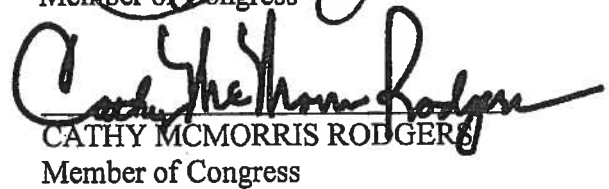

RICHARD L. HANNA
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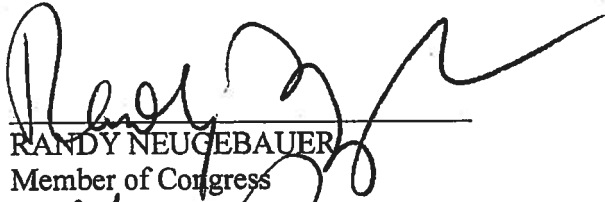

BILL HUIZENGA
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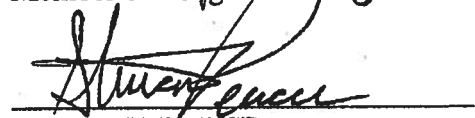

TOM LATHAM
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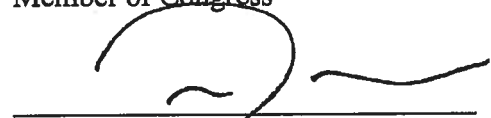

BILLY LONG
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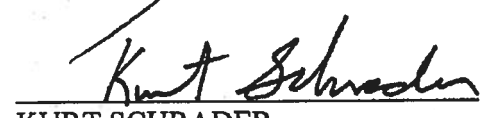

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
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CANDICE S. MILLER
Member of Congress

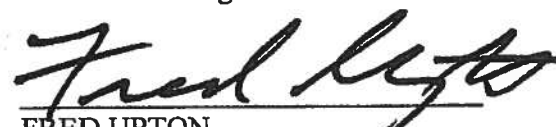

RANDY NEUGEBAUER
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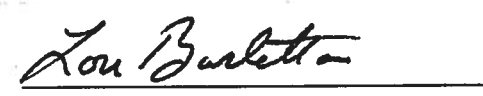

STEVAN PEARCE
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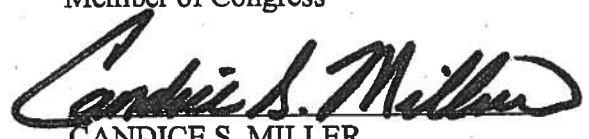

TOM REED
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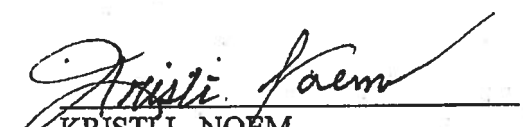

KURT SCHRADER
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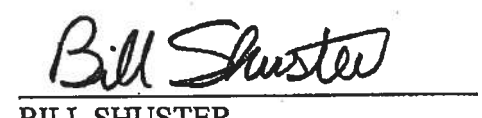

LOU BARLETTA
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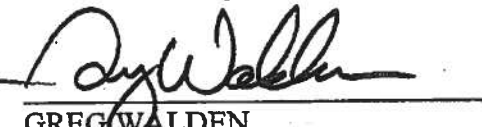

KRISTI L. NOEM
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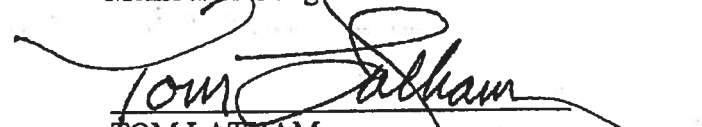

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