

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2012

Ambassador Ron Kirk
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ambassador Kirk and Secretary Vilsack,

As the United States moves toward granting Russia permanent normal trade relations, we urge you to make full use of all of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) mechanisms as soon as the Jackson-Vanik provisions are repealed in order to address any non-science-based sanitary and phytosanitary issues that have continued to prohibit U.S. dairy exports from having access to the Russian market.

In 2010, the Russian Federation refused to continue to accept the bilateral US-Russia dairy certificate. Since that time, the U.S. has been unable to export dairy products to the Russian market. It is our understanding that the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been negotiating with Russia and its Customs Union partners on a new dairy export certificate that is commercially meaningful and consistent with international standards. While we are hopeful that those negotiations will be successful, the U.S. should use every tool at its disposal to end these discriminatory practices against American dairy products.

When H.R. 6156, The Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012, is signed into law and the U.S. permanently grants Russia normal trade relations, the United States will be able to use the WTO's mechanisms to address Russia's non-science-based sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to American dairy exports.

We strongly urge you to utilize the full array of WTO mechanisms to reopen these markets and ensure that American dairy producers and processors have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field in the Russian market.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress