

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We want to thank you for the hard work and long hours you and your team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are putting in to help support the agriculture industry across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our farmers and ranchers are doing everything they can to keep our nation fed during this difficult time, and we know you are doing all you can to help reduce the harm that the current crisis is causing for them.

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and in that bill, Congress provided \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation. It also assigned \$9.5 billion to the USDA to provide “support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools, and livestock producers, including dairy producers.”

Since passage of the CARES Act, the need for the federal government to step in and help has only increased. While no sector of the economy is immune to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dairy market is on the verge of collapse, and without your swift action, it is in danger of never fully recovering. In short, dairy farmers need your support immediately.

We write today to request that you use the authority given to you by Congress to quickly act to save the dairy industry. We recognize that much of rural America requires your attention at this time, but we ask that you work with the dairy industry in particular to keep milk on our families’ tables and prevent an unnecessary market collapse.

Sincerely,



KEVIN MCCARTHY
House Republican Leader



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress



GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
Member of Congress



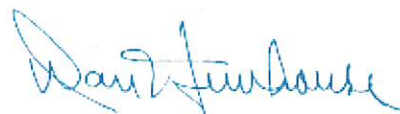
PAUL GOSAR, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



KELLY ARMSTRONG
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



DAN NEWHOUSE
Member of Congress



FRED KELLER
Member of Congress



BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



TED BUDD
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



JIM HAGEDORN
Member of Congress



MARIE DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress



JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress



DENVER RIGGLEMAN
Member of Congress



TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress



DAVID P. ROE, M.D.
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress



BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress



RALPH ABRAHAM, M.D.
Member of Congress



DANIEL P. MEUSER
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



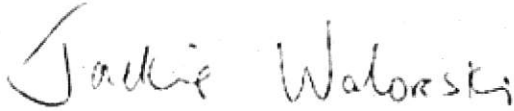
JOHN CURTIS
Member of Congress



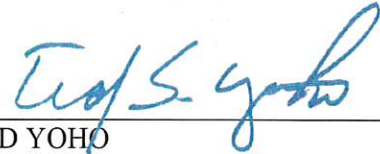
GREG STEUBE
Member of Congress



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress



TED YOHO
Member of Congress



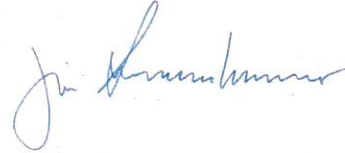
JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress



GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



TOM EMMER
Member of Congress



RUSS FULCHER
Member of Congress



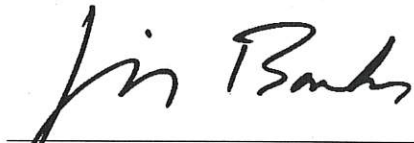
LLYOD SMUCKER
Member of Congress



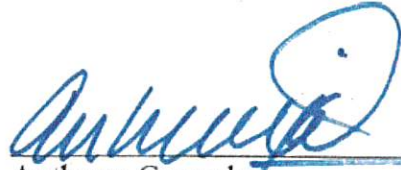
ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



JIM BANKS
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



TOM REED
Member of Congress



MIKE BOST
Member of Congress



RON ESTES
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RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress



MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress