



President
François Laporte
Président

July 23, 2015

The Honourable Ed Fast
Minister of International Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Fast,

On behalf of over 120,000 members of Teamsters Canada, and especially our thousands of members who work throughout the supply chain in Canada's dairy industry, I am writing to you with deep concerns about the upcoming ministerial negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Maui. Those talks are scheduled to convene on July 28th and, as we understand from published reports, the goal will be to conclude the agreement by resolving several remaining "sensitive issues," including the market access demands of the U.S. and New Zealand governments on behalf of their dairy industries. We urge you to resist those demands and make clear, as Canadian governments have done for many years in many trade talks, that our dairy supply management is "off the table."

This letter follows up on our letter to Kristen Hillman during the APEC summit in October, 2013, which is attached and incorporated by reference hereto. We and our brothers and sisters in the dairy industries in New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. share several concerns about the direction of the TPP talks on issues that matter to working families. As we explained then, we will only be able to support a TPP that protects workers' rights to organize, that does not restrict the right of working families to affordable medicines, and that does not grant foreign investors the right to sue our elected governments. When the TPP text is finally made public, we will see whether these baseline demands of civil society have been met. In the meantime, we encourage you to take a firm position to protect the dairy farms of Canada, the source of livelihood for many of our members and communities across the country.

We appreciate the political pressure that you will encounter in Maui to jeopardize those farmers, workers and communities by agreeing to dismantle our supply management. We have seen the recent letter from the "free traders" in the U.S. Congress to Ambassador Doer in which they make dairy market access a condition of their support for a final agreement. We trust that you can resist that pressure and those ultimatums. We are in solidarity with the Dairy Farmers of Canada who have objected to the bullying of the U.S. negotiators during the TPP endgame. We thank you for your leadership as you prepare for the Maui ministerial and the difficult imperative of protecting one of Canada's most vibrant industries.

In Solidarity,

Francois Laporte
President

cc: The Honourable Don Davies. MP, NDP Critic for International Trade
General President James P. Hoffa, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Ms. Kirsten Hillman - Associate Assistant Deputy Minister