



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Katrina Shankland
71st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As you are likely aware, Canada has implemented a new pricing structure which drastically increases the cost of dairy imports from the United States. This unfair trade arrangement will devastate dairy farms, causing a ripple effect among many small businesses and local economies.

The new pricing structure Canada is implementing for U.S. dairy imports has caused Grassland Dairy Products of Greenwood to terminate 75 milk contracts from Wisconsin dairy farms. Spring is their high season for milk production, and farms across Wisconsin will struggle to find buyers for thousands of pounds of milk per day. As you know, global competition and tight margins have already made dairy farming difficult – from market volatility in commodity pricing to weather to finding workers and struggling with the cost of capital investments.

I'm encouraged to see public comments from some members of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation calling for a solution, and respectfully request that the federal government take immediate action to protect Wisconsin's dairy farmers. With an economic impact of \$43 billion a year, dairy comprises almost half of Wisconsin's agricultural economy. The average cow in Wisconsin generates \$34,000 a year in economic activity. We pride ourselves on being one of the top milk producers in the world – but that's dependent on fair trade deals.

As elected officials, it is our utmost duty to be a voice for Wisconsin families. I appreciate everything you are doing to help our farmers and trust that you will work with the president and Canadian government to find a fair solution that protects Wisconsin farmers and the economy. Please let me know how I can work with you on the state level to protect Wisconsin dairy farms.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and welcome the opportunity to work with you on this issue. Thank you for your service to Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District