

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to share the concerns I have heard from farmers and the agriculture industry in Wisconsin regarding recent actions your Administration has taken and statements you have made. Many farmers are feeling a great deal of uncertainty this spring because of worries about the impact of your Administration's policies on the stability of their workforce and access to markets for their products in both Canada and Mexico. As you consider your agenda on immigration and trade policies, I want to share these concerns to ensure that Wisconsin farmers' voices are being heard and considered. Changes in Washington must work for farmers, not against them.

### *Immigration*

My conversations with farmers in my state make it clear to me that your early actions on immigration have incited panic and widespread fear among immigrant workers. This has begun to cause substantial disruptions to commerce and the well-being of thousands of families in Wisconsin. Many Wisconsin farmers have established close relationships, built through shared work, with trusted immigrant workers who they have employed for a decade or more. These workers represent an economic necessity, as they undertake absolutely vital agricultural work. Now, Wisconsin farmers, farm workers, and their families are living in fear of deportation raids.

This uncertainty threatens the economic stability of Wisconsin's rural communities, our agriculture industry and the dairy industry in particular. Farmers are very concerned that their businesses could be upended without these workers. Some have even told me they would be forced to retire from farming if they could not continue to work with their trusted employees. These concerns are compounded by low dairy prices, which have posed serious challenges for the industry.

One way we can address these concerns is by undertaking comprehensive immigration reform. I have long supported addressing immigration with a long-term solution and I am hopeful that you will work towards a bipartisan agreement that fixes a system that is simply not working.

### *Trade with Mexico*

Wisconsin's dairy industry depends on trade. Over the past few decades, dairy businesses have built relationships and expanded markets for *Made in Wisconsin* dairy products, which are known for their value and quality. Mexico is the largest export market for U.S. dairy products, purchasing nearly a quarter of U.S. dairy exports in 2016. Wisconsin dairy businesses have

worked hard to establish relationships with Mexican importers. Because of the economic benefit of these exports, the dairy industry is understandably concerned about your Administration's actions and policy shifts that could threaten these relationships or potentially cause retaliation against our exports.

As your Administration discusses border tariffs, renegotiation of trade deals, the construction of a border wall and immigration actions, I urge you to engage with the agriculture industry and ensure it has a voice in discussions. Without care, the impacts of these actions on our rural economy could be severe.

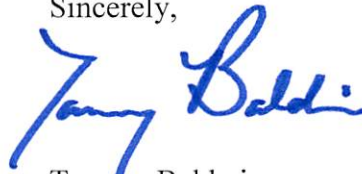
*Trade with Canada*

Canada is also an important export market for U.S. dairy, though a recent change in Canadian policy is threatening market access for dairy products. The change began in Ontario last spring, when the province instituted a new dairy pricing policy that preferences Canadian dairy products over U.S. products. This change cost Wisconsin companies tens of millions of dollars last year alone. In February, the policy change was implemented nationwide, further blocking U.S. dairy products. This situation merits your immediate attention and I urge you to address it and prioritize it in upcoming trade discussions.

As you consider action items that will impact farmers and Wisconsin's agriculture economy, I urge you to do so in a way that is transparent, provides ample opportunity for public stakeholder input, and occurs on a predictable timeframe upon which farmers and businesses can plan.

The health of Wisconsin's rural economy rises and falls with the strength of our agriculture industry. We must do everything we can to ensure our rural communities and farms make it through this challenging time for farmers and farm workers. It is of the utmost importance to the health of our rural towns that you consider the challenges and priorities of the agriculture community as you draft your policy agenda.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator