

The Honorable Phil Crane
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2002

Dear Chairman Crane,

RE: Opposition to the Amendment to Trade Legislation that would raise import tariffs on Casein and Milk Protein Concentrates

We are an importer and exporter of all forms of milk proteins. We have been in existence for 17 years and have offices in Ohio and California. Not only do we import and distribute Casein and Caseinates throughout North America (Canada, US and Mexico) from our US locations: but we also export significant quantities of US produced whey proteins throughout Central and South America and Asia.

We urge you to strongly oppose the amendment that may be offered to the House Subcommittee on Trade (HR 1786) that would mandate higher tariffs and tariff rate quotas on imported casein and milk protein concentrates (comparable to Senator Dayton's bill S. 847).

Our customer base for these products represents a large cross section of US companies, including but not limited to baby food, bakery, non-dairy creamers, frozen desserts, breakfast foods, soups, processed meats, high protein bars and beverages and other nutritional products. Non food uses include dietary supplements, medical products, adhesives, cosmetics and other industrial uses. Restricting the import of these useful ingredients would have a negative impact on a huge range of industrial and consumer products. Not only would it negatively affect the industries but in these difficult economic times, it would negatively affect the jobs of those in our company, and also thousands of other jobs in our customer's and supplier's companies nationwide, **JOBS OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS!**

The supporters of these protectionist measures would have us believe that these imported caseins and milk protein concentrates are reducing the sales of non fat dry milk. This is a fallacy; in fact the caseins and milk protein concentrates have superior functional attributes, consistent higher protein levels, and have unwanted other ingredients of non fat dry milk, like lactose removed.

Add to this fallacy the fact that there is no domestic production of Casein and only recently, minimal MPC. The technology is freely available, but the current government support of the price of nonfat dry milk makes such a proposition economically unattractive.

The solution is not to impose these protectionist measures, what are you protecting? We do not have a US Casein industry! You will also create major WTO issues with the casein producing regions receiving compensation, who will pay for this?

There is also a strong possibility that these actions will invoke retaliation that will affect the export side of our business. We export millions of pounds per annum of US produced whey protein products. How can such a measure be considered as beneficial to a Trade **PROMOTION** Act?!?!?

Please do not support these measures, we are hard working tax paying US citizens whose jobs and those of the employees in many of our customers and our suppliers will be jeopardized by these misconceptions and fallacies and the resultant negative actions.

On behalf of all the employees, your constituents, we thank you for opposing these actions.

Best Regards

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