**Sample company letter to Congress - General Trade Letter**

Dear [Member of Congress]:

[Company] is proud to be a part of the [town name of facility] community, where we manufacture [products] with over [#] employees. With 95 percent of the world’s population living outside of the United States, our company and other dairy processors across America need access to markets abroad.

Trade and exports have already paid dividends for [company] and the U.S. dairy industry. Thanks to the implementation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the U.S. is now a net exporter of dairy. While dairy sales and consumption are stable in the U.S., the need for dairy internationally is increasing quickly. It’s clear trade means growth for the U.S. dairy industry.

Today, [company] sells our products in [name of countries or number of countries]. These markets have helped us add jobs and spur new investment. For example, [example of the positive effect of trade on your sales].

The free trade agreements the United States holds with 20 countries have been powerful in opening markets, with more than 55% of U.S. dairy exports going to our FTA partners. Unfortunately, dairy processors in the United States risk falling behind other dairy exporting countries. We face more barriers overseas than many of our competitors in Europe and Asia, who are negotiating trade agreements that exclude and disadvantage us.

I urge you continue to work on a strong trade agenda and market-opening trade agreements that will level the playing field. Free trade is the best way to give the dairy industry a boost to compete globally.

Thank you for your time and engagement on this critical issue.

Best,

[Your name + Company]