



24 August 2015

The Honourable Tim Groser
Minister of Trade
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
NEW ZEALAND

By email: tim.groser@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister Groser,

The New Zealand Dairy Workers Union – Te Runanga Wai U (DWU) repeats the position outlined in our letter to David Walker, the then Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) Lead Negotiator on 11 October 2013.

In that letter, the DWU appealed to TPPA negotiators on behalf of the workers we represent in the dairy and food processing industries to make this trade deal work for working families.

The DWU again repeats that if a final draft of the TPPA erodes the rights or threatens the livelihoods of workers in any participating countries, we will oppose it at every political level and demand that you reopen negotiations, just as we would in collective bargaining with any employer who proposed a bad contract.

The DWU is an affiliate of the IUF, the global trade union federation representing workers employed in agriculture, the preparation and manufacture of food and beverages, and in hotels, restaurants and catering services. International labour solidarity is the IUF's guiding principle, and accordingly the DWU opposes the TPPA if it does not achieve these three fundamental fair trade principles:

1. The TPPA must respect freedom of association and the rights of workers in participating countries to collectively bargain and should ratify and uphold core international labour conventions. The commitments in the Labour Chapter must include the elimination of child and forced labor and must be enforceable by dispute settlement and sanctions no less exacting than those that protect commercial interests.
2. The TPPA must not restrict the right of working people to access affordable generic medicines. Countries must have the right to subsidise medicine costs for its citizens, manage the purchase of medicines to ensure they are affordable, regardless of the

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- asserted intellectual property or investor rights of big pharmaceutical corporations.
3. The TPPA must not grant foreign investors the right to sue governments. Our central and local governments must retain the power to make laws that prioritise workers' interests and citizen rights over the profit zeal of transnational investors.

Finally, the DWU strongly maintains that any potential increased international market access for the New Zealand dairy industry must not be achieved at the expense of the above fundamental fair trade principles.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Flatt
DWU National Secretary

CC: *Ron Oswald, General Secretary, IUF*