

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), Vice-Chairman of the House Dairy Farmer Caucus, issued the following statement after attending yesterday’s Caucus meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed American trade partnership agreement with countries from the Asia Pacific region:

“I appreciate Ambassador Kirk meeting with members of the Dairy Farmer Caucus to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The 16th district is one of the largest agriculture producing areas in the country, with dairy farming as a great economic engine for our region. Unfortunately, our dairy farmers are struggling, and I fear that the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership could make it even more difficult for our farmers to stay in business.

“Trade agreements must be fair, and I am particularly concerned that including New Zealand, a significant exporter of dairy products, in this partnership will put one more unfair obstacle in the way of our dairy farmers’ survival. I look forward to hearing more from Ambassador Kirk about the potential impact of this proposal on our dairy farmers, and I will continue to fight burdensome taxes and regulation that would put our farmers at an unfair disadvantage in the global market.”

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