



Dear IDFA Leaders,

This week, IDFA board members traveled to Washington, D.C., and met with Congressional leaders and senior administration officials to discuss priority issues for the dairy industry. The two-day event focused on supply chain, labor, and trade issues affecting our industry. All of the Senators and Representatives we met with were sympathetic to our concerns and many agreed to take affirmative steps to help alleviate short-term and longer-term supply chain challenges. For example, we expect that our meetings will result in additional cosponsors for legislation that addresses port congestion issues—namely, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021—as well as support for additional shorter-term actions that the Administration might take to facilitate the timely export of dairy products. Over the course of the Strategic Legislative Fly-In, our dairy leaders had 14 meetings.

The group met with the following officials:

- Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
- Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
- Sen. John Thune (R-SD)

- Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
- Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
- Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)
- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)
- Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS)
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
- Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA)
- Chairman Daniel B. Maffei, Federal Maritime Commission
- Ambassador Gregg Doud, Former Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)

We are so thankful to our board members who joined us for this important event. Their leadership and engagement on these issues was critical in our ability to advocate for the industry.

This week we were joined by the following dairy leaders:

- David Ahlem, President & CEO, Hilmar Cheese Company
- Heather Draper, Director, The Ice Cream Club, Inc.
- Rich Draper, CEO, The Ice Cream Club, Inc.
- Tim Galloway, CEO, Galloway Company
- Daniel Gayford, Vice President of Business Development, Americold
- Jason Mischel, President of Sales and Milk Procurement, Valley Queen Cheese
- Kelly Pettijohn, Sr. Director, Americold

- Keith Schroeder, CEO, High Road Craft Ice Cream, Inc.
- Stan Ryan, President & CEO, Darigold

Having IDFA members with a presence in a legislator's district or state makes a tremendous difference in our ability to schedule meetings with the legislators and their key staff. These legislative Fly-Ins also give us the opportunity to demonstrate the power and influence of our collective voice when we come together under the IDFA name. Sharing your individual business experiences and challenges permits us to have an impact on the policy-making process. Here are a few images from the Fly-In:



Rep. Randy Feenstra   
@RepFeenstra

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Yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting with folks from the International Dairy Foods Association. We discussed international trade and the supply chain challenges facing our dairy farmers. Thank you for stopping by! [@dairyidfa](#) [#IA04](#)





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@dairyidfa



Thank you, Senator [@ChuckGrassley](#), for meeting with dairy business leaders to discuss solutions for the supply chain, workforce and trade issues facing our industry.



The Fly-In concluded with IDFA's fourth annual Celebration of Dairy Holiday Reception, which hosted members of Congress as well as key congressional staff, officials from the Biden Administration, ambassadors and representatives from trading partner countries, and leaders from throughout the food and agriculture industry.

IDFA recognized six individuals with the IDFA Leadership Award: Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. David Scott of Georgia, Rep. Sanford Bishop of Georgia, Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho, and Jason Hafemeister and Bruce Summers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Learn more here.](#)



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Tonight, we celebrated the many ways the dairy industry supports our nation's economy, jobs in communities across the country, health and wellness for children and adults alike, and a more sustainable future for us all.



We also want to thank IMA Dairy & Food USA for sponsoring this Fly-In. Their strong support of this important advocacy event is very much appreciated.

The IDFA team will follow up with the Congressional offices and continue to drive home the need to address the logistics and supply chain issues as well as trade and the other issues we discussed during the Fly-In.

We would highly encourage you to join us for our next fly-in. If you would like to learn more about our grassroots advocacy please reach out to Colin Newman, Chief of Staff, at [cnewman@idfa.org](mailto:cnewman@idfa.org) and Dave Carlin, IDFA senior vice president of legislative affairs and economic policy, at [dcarlin@idfa.org](mailto:dcarlin@idfa.org).

Thank you,

**MICHAEL DYKES, D.V.M.**

President and CEO

International Dairy Foods Association