

What Opinion Leaders Say about Informa IEG's Study Assessing The Impact of Geographical Indications for Common Cheeses On the U.S. Dairy Sector

Congress

Europe's plan to expand geographical indications will harm American farmers, manufacturers, and consumers. Open and free trade cannot occur with this kind of GI system. Parmesan, Feta, Asiago, and many other Wisconsin cheeses have won international acclaim, and they should be able to compete fairly in the world market.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.)
Speaker, House of Representatives

While there are legitimate and agreed upon uses for Geographic Indications, the European Union's approach has become another tool to block market access for American products using common food names. This study shows what has been apparent for some time. If the U.S. gives in to the EU's demands on GIs, it will have a significantly negative impact on the U.S. economy – from the dairy farmer to the local grocer to the consumer at home.

Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)
Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee

Vermont makes some of the finest cheeses in the world. This push to restrict common cheese names in use for hundreds of years in Vermont and around the globe is in reality an attempt to force competitors out of business. Europe's 'geographical Indications' agenda must be rejected.

Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.)
Co-Chair of the Congressional Dairy Farmer Caucus

Industry Partners

We are very concerned that geographic indicators are being used by some countries as trade barriers. These protectionist measures have no place in our modern system of international trade and we will continue to oppose their use for trade restrictive purposes.

Zippy Duvall
President
American Farm Bureau Federation

Manufacturers remain highly concerned by EU efforts to promote a set of policies that will restrict access and sales of food products relying on common names to the detriment of jobs and production in the United States. This report provides an important case study on the high costs of these policies for

producers, manufacturers and consumers that are being replicated in a number of other food industries as well – and that the EU is trying to expand to other manufactured products.

Linda Menghetti Dempsey
Vice President, International Economic Affairs
National Association of Manufacturers

GMA welcomes this case study and efforts to understand the potential future impacts of the EU's overuse of GI protections to inappropriately limit the ability of the U.S. food industry to use common food names. If unchecked, the EU GI strategy could have wide impacts across the food chain, and GMA urges the U.S. government to take steps to address this serious trade concern.

Mary Sophos
Executive Vice President, Strategic Planning and Policy
Grocery Manufacturers Association