



March 17, 2019

Robert E. Lighthizer, Ambassador  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Honorable Ambassador Lighthizer,

The Oldways Cheese Coalition and its members appeal to the United States Trade Representative to reconsider and eliminate the tariffs imposed on imported cheeses from Europe on October 18, 2019.

The 25% extra tariff on cheeses imported from Europe, in addition to the regular 15% tariff, have made these products more expensive for American consumers. This price has also put a strain on the bottom line of restaurants and independent cheese shops. As such, the tariffs are causing the greatest burden to small businesses in the United States and American consumers.

In the past week, independent American food retailers, including restaurants and specialty stores have seen their businesses diminished due to the outbreak of Covid-19 in our country. As cities and states consider near total shutdowns of businesses, the livelihood of thousands of people working in the specialty food industry will be negatively affected.

This is why we at Oldways and the Oldways Cheese Coalition believe the tariffs should be eliminated now. Once businesses are ready to open their doors again, the tariffs would loom large in the cost of products and they will further affect consumers, independent retailers, as well as importers and distributors. These tariffs on cheeses are disrupting existing markets, limiting products in the marketplace for American consumers, and hurting American jobs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Yescas".

Carlos Yescas  
Program Director  
Oldways Cheese Coalition

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Baer-Sinnott".

Sara Baer-Sinnott  
President  
Oldways