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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES, RISK MANAGEMENT,
AND CREDIT
COMMODITY MARKETS, DIGITAL ASSETS, AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

December 11, 2025

Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

Thank you for holding this hearing on Members' priorities for the remainder of the 119th Congress. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 1394, the *Codifying Useful Regulatory Definitions (CURD) Act*. This bipartisan legislation has been considered by the House Energy and Commerce Committee since 2019.

The CURD Act would amend the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act to codify the definition of 'natural cheese' in accordance with established cheese-making standards utilized by industry and consumers for decades in the United States. It would also help differentiate 'natural cheese' from 'processed cheese.' Today, the term 'natural cheese' appears in federal regulations without a definition, unlike processed cheese, which is federally defined. The definition of natural cheese codified in the CURD Act would mirror those verified and certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Process Verified Program.

In 2017, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee supported the CURD Act and moved it through the Senate without objection via unanimous consent. Since that time, the legislation has received two hearings before the House Energy & Commerce Committee without raising significant objections to any language within the bill. In addition to legislative consideration, the bill has also been subject to four rounds of technical assistance by the FDA.

Finally, the CURD Act is strongly supported by both state and national dairy associations, as demonstrated by the attached industry support letter urging its enactment. We appreciate your attention to this pending legislation and encourage this Committee to include the CURD Act in its next appropriate hearing opportunity and move the legislation as quickly as possible.

Thank you to the Chairman and Ranking Member, for the opportunity to support the CURD Act, and I request that my full written statement with the attached IDFA letter of support be made part of the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen McDonald Rivet".

Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress