

Testimony by Representative Mark Pocan
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day
December 12, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, for holding today's hearing and offering an opportunity for Members to share their priorities for the remainder of this 119th Congress. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1394, the *Codifying Useful Regulatory Definitions Act*, or the CURD Act. This bipartisan legislation has been sitting without action from the Energy and Commerce Committee since 2019, and I share my support for holding a hearing and markup on this legislation.

As you may know, the CURD Act would amend the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act to codify the definition of 'natural cheese' in accordance with the established cheese-making standard utilized by industry and consumers for decades in the United States. The legislation would also help differentiate 'natural cheese' from 'processed cheese.' Currently, the term 'natural cheese' appears in federal regulation without any formal definition while 'processed cheese' is defined in federal regulations. The definition of natural cheese included in the CURD Act would mirror and codify the one 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.

The CURD Act has been under consideration by Congress since 2017 when it was moved through the Senate without objection via unanimous consent. Since that time, the legislation has received two legislative hearings by the House Energy & Commerce Committee, neither of which raised significant objections to any language within the legislation. This is a non-controversial, bipartisan bill that has received multiple rounds of technical assistance from the FDA, making it a great candidate for the Committee's upcoming schedule.

Finally, the CURD Act is strongly supported among state and national dairy associations. My understanding is that many of those organizations have submitted their endorsements to the Committee to hold a hearing and markup of this bill, and I echo those calls.

I 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, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to provide this testimony and I request that my written statement be made part of the record.