



## **Update Regarding Trump Administration Appointments of Special Interest to the CIAA**

While there has been some movement regarding the United State's Senate confirmation of nominees submitted by President Trump, final action has not yet occurred on several positions of special interest to the CIAA. The Senate will be in recess until Monday, April 24, so no further action will happen until that time.

And while each of the following positions are very important, additional appointments need to be made, e.g. Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Programs, Administrator for the Foreign Agricultural Service, Deputy Commissioner for Food at FDA, and other USTR personnel. None of those will happen until these top officials are confirmed. Following is a summary of where they stand.

**Secretary of Agriculture** - President Trump named Governor Sonny Perdue of Georgia to be the next Secretary of Agriculture on January 19, formally submitting his nomination on March 9. His confirmation hearing was held before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on March 23, and can be found [here](#). The Committee then approved his nomination by voice vote on March 30. The full Senate is now scheduled to vote on his confirmation on April 24, and he is expected to be confirmed.

**Food and Drug Administration** - Scott Gottlieb was named FDA Commissioner on March 10, and his nomination formally submitted to the Senate on March 27. He previously was appointed as the Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs by President Bush in 2005. He is a physician, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and a venture partner at New Enterprise Associates. His confirmation hearing was held by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on April 5. Dr. Gottlieb had not made any specific statements regarding FDA's role in Food Safety until this confirmation hearing. Committee Member Pat Roberts (R-KS), who is also chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, asked Dr. Gottlieb about the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. His response was: "I think FSMA was a significant advance in terms of giving the agency the authorities it needed and the resources it needed to ensure the food supply is safe. My mandate is going to be to make sure FSMA is implemented in the proper way and that we're striking the right balance with respect to that implementation." No further action has been announced.

**United States Trade Representative** - Robert Lighthizer was named to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on

January 3, and his nomination formally submitted to the Senate on January 20. He served under President Ronald Reagan as Deputy United States Trade Representative; Chief of Staff of the United States Senate Committee of Finance when Congress passed the Reagan program of tax cuts and spending reductions, and also aided in the passage of legislation which implemented the Tokyo Round of trade negotiations. He has also represented the United States at meetings of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and meetings related to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (the precursor to the World Trade Organization). The Senate Committee on Finance held its confirmation hearing on March 14. His confirmation has been delayed by a claim from Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) that Mr. Lighthizer's previous work for foreign governments makes him ineligible to be appointed as the United States Trade Representative, pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Efforts are being made to secure the needed waiver, but cannot move forward until the Senate returns from the current recess, which ends on April 24.

Should you have any questions, please contact Roger Szemraj at [rszemraj@theciaa.org](mailto:rszemraj@theciaa.org) or (202) 789-1212.

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#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 22, 2017

Raw Milk Cheese Appreciation Day

May 4, 2017

Member Meeting

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

May 5, 2017

CIAA Dinner Dance

Macalosos, Hawthorne, NJ

Dinner Dance [Registration](#)

July 1, 2017

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2017 to notify FAS.

August 31, 2017

Last day to Enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2017 license.

\* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

#### **Cheese Importers Association of America**

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