

Our ref: BC/lr

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



20th February 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

Risks to the farming industry by leaving the Single Market

You will be aware of Scotland's Rural College's independent study on the impact of leaving the Single Market on four farm types: beef, sheep, dairy and crops. The study analysed these farm types in the context of three scenarios:

- A bespoke free trade deal with the EU (similar to the Single Market)
- WTO default Most Favoured Nation tariffs
- Unilateral trade liberalisation

Furthermore, you will also be aware that the report found that Scotland's farmers would be worse off under each of these scenarios when compared to the current trade agreement in the European Single Market.

This research furthers the case made in recent governmental impact analyses report that the interests of the UK and Scottish economies are best served by remaining in the EU – however retaining Single Market membership is the least-worst option if we were to leave.

You will know, having visited my constituency recently, that the Stirling area is home to all four farm types who face being severely impacted by a hard Brexit that would see them lose access to Single Market trade terms. It is self-evident that, should the UK leave the EU, Scotland must stay in the Single Market in order to protect the interests of farmers like those in my constituency.

I sincerely hope that given this extensive and compelling analysis that you will agree with me that Scotland's best interests are served as part of the Single Market.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. L. Robb".

Bruce Crawford MSP

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Stirling Constituency covers: Aberfoyle, Arnprior, Ardeonaig, Balfron, Balquhiddier, Bannockburn, Blanehead, Brig O'Turk, Buchlyvie, Balmaha, Callander, Cambusbarron, Cowie, Crianlarich, Croftamie, Deanston, Doune, Drymen, Fallin, Fintry, Gargunnoch, Gartmore, Inversnaid, Killearn, Killin, Kinlochard, Kippen, Lochearnhead, Milton of Buchanan, Pleau, Port of Menteith, Rowardennan, Stirling, Strathblane, Strathyre, Stronachlachar, Thornhill, Throsk, Tyndrum.