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Office of the Hearing Clerk
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Stop 9203, Room 1031, South Building
Washington, DC 20250-9203

RE: Reply Brief for USDA Hearing on a Proposed Federal Milk Marketing Order for California

The National Farmers Union appreciates the opportunity to submit a reply brief for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hearing on a proposed federal milk marketing order for California. The National Farmers Union, which represents more than 200,000 farmers nationwide supports the federal order proposal for California put forward by California Dairies, Inc., Dairy Farmers of America Inc., and Land O'Lakes, Inc., to establish a federal milk marketing order in California.

NFU is a grassroots organization that is guided by a policy handbook written and approved entirely by our members. The mission of NFU's staff is to advocate for the policy prescriptions contained within that handbook. This hearing is of particular importance to our California members, but also to our organization as a whole. As part of our 2015 policy, members set expectations over the federal order system. NFU believes that the orders should be maintained and expanded to include all areas within the continental United States. A national milk marketing order and pricing reform should emphasize maximum return to producers. Our policy also holds that the establishment of a federal milk marketing order should include California so that California dairy producer prices are brought in line with prices paid in the federal order, which will benefit all dairy producers nationwide.

Again we support the federal order proposal put forward by California Dairies, Inc., Dairy Farmers of America, Inc., and Land O'Lakes, Inc., to establish a federal milk marketing order in California and thank you for the opportunity to submit a post hearing brief today.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson,
President