



Great Lakes Cheese of New York, Inc.

23 Phelps Street Adams, New York 13605 315-232-4511 Fax 315-232-4055

November 7, 2005

Ms. Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator
USDA - AMS - Dairy Programs
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0225
Fax: 202-690-3410

Re: Support for an emergency hearing on changes in the Class III and IV price formulas

Dear Deputy Administrator Coale,

This letter is being submitted on behalf of Great Lakes Cheese Company in support for the request for an emergency hearing on changes in the Class III and IV price formulas recently submitted by Agri-Mark Dairy Cooperative.

We use milk regulated by Federal Orders in our facilities located in Adams and Cuba, New York.

The manufacturing allowances provided for under Federal orders were last updated based upon manufacturing cost data from 1998 to 2000. The Agri-Mark proposals merely asks that USDA again use the same two surveys that the Department used previously to update their make allowances to reflect actual current costs (proposal one), along with correcting two obvious problems with whey butter pricing (proposal 2) and the barrel/block cheese price spread (proposal 3).

Great lakes Cheese has many options of where to manufacture and/or purchase its cheese; however, we have been and remain committed to our current suppliers of milk in the Northeast. The local farmers who ship their quality milk to our facilities are a major factor in our national reputation for consistently high quality cheese products. We would like this mutually beneficial relationship to continue and expand. However that can only happen if the Federal Order can provide make allowances that reflect the actual costs of manufacturing cheese and other dairy products.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward to the hearing process which will address an issue that is important for manufacturers and dairy farmers alike.

Sincerely yours,

John Jennings
Great Lakes Cheese Company

cc: Mr. Erik Rasmussen, Market Administrator
Northeast Milk Marketing Area
Fax: 617-737-8002