

United States Senate

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Ted Stevens

Alaska

June 9, 2005

35-4283560

AMS

Mike Johanns

Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street & Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. *Mike*

It recently came to my attention that the Department of Agriculture announced a proposed rule change to the Pacific Northwest and Arizona-Las Vegas Federal milk market orders which would subject "producer-handlers" who put more than three million pounds of milk on the market per month to the pooling and pricing provisions of the Pacific Northwest and Arizona-Las Vegas milk marketing orders.

I understand the concern raised at various public hearings that allowing producer-handlers to be exempt from these milk marketing orders results in their obtaining unfair competitive advantage. However, before the Department implements any change, I urge you to address the impacts it would have on milk deficit states, such as Alaska. It is my concern that the proposed regulation would greatly increase the cost of milk in these states.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Ted Stevens
TED STEVENS

cc: Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture

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