

Richard Eakles Testimony April 17, 2002

My name is Richard Eakle. I own and operate with my father, brother, and cousin, a 600 acre, 250 cow dairy farm 60 miles north of Salt Lake City. I came to these hearings I had no intention to testify. But after listening to what has been said, I felt the need to share how I feel. My grandfather started this dairy during the depression, delivering his bottled milk door to door in Salt Lake City. His full intent was to please the customers with a regular quality supply of milk. That is still our intent today. The milk that leaves our dairy goes to a fluid milk plant in Layton, Utah.

I was raised on the values of hard work, honesty, and integrity. What I have seen in the looseness of these policies has allowed others to do just the opposite. These practices have caused a reduction in the milk price to me and others in our area causing many to go out of business. Because of the 90/10 program it allows grade A milk never intended for the fluid market to be priced in the blend price. I think that it is important to have these percentages changed to 70/30 to stop this grade A milk from being priced in the fluid market.

We live close to the consumer market which carries with it greater costs. Our land values range from \$ 5,000 to \$35,000 per acre . Tighter regulation in city limits due to the proximity of urban development also increases costs. This also makes it impossible for the expansion of a dairy in this location. So if it is important to keep these dairies close to the market they need to be compensated by a lower haul charge than milk brought into this market.

I am appalled that milk from California can double-dip and share in our pool price. There needs to be an immediate stop to this practice. This is a very dishonest practice that goes against all the values I was taught.

Richard Alma Eakle  
1089 South Box Elder Way  
Garland, Utah 84312