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Independent Dairy Farmers vs. NMPF and IDFA  
From: Patricia Pease  
[pease@ohio.edu]  
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 2:40 PM  
To: AGSEC -USDA  
Subject: Independent Dairy Farmers vs. NMPF and IDFA

To: Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I have just read with great interest an article in the March 26, 2009 edition of Athens News (Athens, OH) about an effort to marginalize the efforts of local dairyman, Warren Taylor, to provide quality products, mainly so-called Class-1 fluid milk products throughout a region of Ohio. Mr. Taylor began distributing these products in December 2007 and has enjoyed significant success in bringing a quality of milk to consumers that is unparalleled by any product available in several generations. I've known Warren for about 7 years, and knew that he was a highly educated and skilled engineer of dairy processing methods. He is also a master Tai Chi teacher, and I had enjoyed being one of his students over a three year period.

When Warren began the Snowville Creamery enterprise some 15 months ago, we were elated to have such a high quality alternative to highly processed, commercially produced milk and could understand how the success of Snowville Creamery would build so quickly. Now comes word that the dairy lobbyists are attempting to limit competition and provide "orderly marketing," a chilling phrase by any standard, and essentially force independent dairy farmers to price themselves completely out of the market.

Mr. Taylor's letter to you, dated March 25, 2009, outlines far more comprehensively and eloquently than I could the situation that he and some 40 other provider-handler dairymen across the nation are facing. We interested citizens - fellow Ohioans and beyond - and concerned human beings who all face the import of corporatized food supplies, dwindling nutritional resources, and degenerating health standards with ever deepening pessimism, are appealing to you and your staff to bring down the efforts of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) to wipe out dairy enterprises like Snowville Creamery.

I also have read with great interest your biography found on the USDA website, noting your track record as a governor in championing the possibilities for small farm profitability; for committing to health care for all children in Iowa; to enhancement programs in early childhood education and the eradication of malnutrition among the youngest of our citizens. Surely the appeal of Warren Taylor would not fall on deaf ears in light of such a track record as yours.

We have a new administration in Washington, DC that claims unprecedented transparency and openness in governance. I can only hope that you and the USDA will act swiftly to reflect this style of governing by showing a commitment to quality of food standards, to market fairness, and to responsiveness to what will benefit all citizens, young and old. This is not solely about saving Mr. Taylor and his 40-odd cohorts; it's about making a long-term commitment to the health of future generations.

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Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Pease

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