

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**

**IN RE:
MILK IN THE NORTHEAST AND
OTHER MARKETING AREAS;
Class III/IV FORMULAS
Dockets: AO-14-A77
DA-07-02**

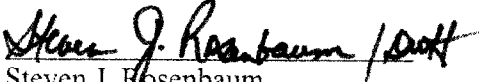
**OPPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FOODS ASSOCIATION TO
THE MOTION OF THE STATE OF MAINE TO CONTINUE THE HEARING
WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSAL 18**

The International Dairy Foods Association (“IDFA”) hereby opposes the motion of the State of Maine to continue the hearing with respect to Proposal 18. This hearing was first noticed in February 2007, and three sets of hearings were held, in February 2007, April 2007, and July 2007. All parties thus had ample time to prepare and present witnesses and evidence in support of their proposals. There is no basis for a continuance.

Moreover, with post-hearing briefing now completed, USDA must devote its resources to reviewing the hearing record, determining which proposals merit adoption, and implementing them as promptly as feasible. Any continuance of the hearing to entertain the receipt of additional evidence as to Proposal 18 would only serve to divert limited resources and delay the implementation of badly needed federal milk order amendments.

For these reason, the motion of the State of Maine should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,


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