

May 8, 2023

Bruce Summers
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative (MDVA), I am writing in support of the comprehensive proposal for modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order system submitted to you on May 1, 2023, by the National Milk Producers Federation.

MDVA is heavily Class I focused which requires a lot of balancing and transportation. Transportation costs have skyrocketed with inflation and the proposed changes in Class I price surface will help to better cover the increased cost of servicing Class I. The Class I market in the East requires balancing which led to the original creation of our ingredient plants. Our ingredient plants produce both butter and powders. Again, the costs of processing have skyrocketed with inflation and an increase in the make allowances for Butter/Powder is greatly needed. These extra costs are coming out of our dairy farmer milk checks and by adopting these two proposals our dairymen would see less costs on their monthly milk checks, transferring that cost to the market.

The NMPF plan represents an important and essential approach toward the systemwide changes needed to ensure a successful update of the nation's federal milk order system, which is critical to ensuring a stable, orderly supply of milk across the United States.

NMPF's plan is the result of nearly two years of meetings and discussions among the dairy industry's leading experts and represents a true consensus of the nation's dairy farmers and its processing dairy cooperatives. While its specific provisions will have different impacts on literally every dairy farm in America, this proposal will benefit all producers and represents the best path for the U.S. dairy industry moving forward.

I especially urge you to move forward with a national federal order hearing that includes all aspects of the NMPF proposal. Because of the extensive length of time that has passed since these provisions were last updated, and the complex interactions between these various provisions of milk-marketing orders,

each individual component is essential to the success of the whole. Please help dairy farmers advance this industry by moving forward with the NMPF proposal. A brighter future for our farms, families and rural communities relies upon it.

Sincerely,

Jay Bryant

CEO

cc: Dane Coale
Erin Taylor