



Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.

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May 16, 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 the Northeast Dairy Producers Association, 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.

For 30 years, the Northeast Dairy Producers Association has served as the voice, the resource, and the network for progressive dairy farms in the Northeast. As a farmer-driven organization that represents over half of the milk produced in New York State, we support the need for Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) reform that modernizes the system to be reflective of today's dairy industry. Our dairy farm members remain concerned about the viability of the industry and the need to update the FMMO to reflect our current and future industry needs. We support the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) proposal, recognizing the challenge of gaining national consensus in an industry that is highly regionalized.

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 petition is the result of nearly two years of meetings and discussions within the dairy industry and represents a consensus of the nation's dairy farmers and its processing dairy cooperatives. This includes meaningful engagement with producer associations like ours. 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.

Our organization urges 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,

Keith Kimball
NEDPA Chair

cc: Dana Coale
Erin Taylor