



1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

April 29, 2020

Mr. Marvin Beshore
Attorney
Johnson, Duffie, Stewart & Weidner
301 Market Street
Post Office Box 109
Lemoyne, Pennsylvania 17043

Dear Mr. Beshore:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) received the proposal, dated April 27, 2020, you submitted on behalf of several marketing agencies and cooperatives requesting to hold an emergency hearing to temporarily amend the Class I price mover in all Federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs). We recognize your proposal was an interim solution developed as a result of impacts on the dairy markets related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which is putting downward pressure on dairy farmer's income. Your request specifically asked for an emergency hearing to be held to allow the changes to be considered and possibly implemented before the June Class I price mover is announced on or before May 23, 2020.

Subsequent to your proposal submission, USDA has been contacted by additional stakeholders who would like to consider other possible solutions. In light of the significant interest in alternative solutions and the temporary nature of your request, USDA would not be able to complete a rulemaking proceeding that allows all industry stakeholders the opportunity to adequately participate and implement the proposal timely. While USDA appreciates the industry's efforts to develop potential solutions considering the unexpected COVID-19 impacts, USDA is not moving forward with a rulemaking proceeding to consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Bruce Summers
Administrator