

TO: Angela C. Snyder, Office of the Deputy Administrator, Poultry Programs, AMS, USDA

I am writing in response to the USDA's proposal to exempt 100 percent organic producers and marketers from commodity promotion assessments.(Docket No. PY-02-006 Ext., Federal Register Vol. 69, No 102, Wednesday, May 26, 2004).

As a processor and marketer of "natural" dairy products, I see the proposed Rule to Exempt Organic Producers From Assessment by Research and Promotion Programs as one which places my segment of the industry at a competitive disadvantage. "Natural " producers, processions, and marketers of dairy products are a smaller segment of the dairy population than the organic portion of the industry yet we are required to pay full assessments and fees.

With recent changes in ownership through acquisition, one of the nation's largest processors/marketers dominates the organic dairy segment of the market. Small producers such as ourselves are already disadvantaged and I see that disadvantage becoming even greater with the institution of the proposed rule.

Your careful consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael D. deBoom
Senior VP Operations
Promised Land Dairy
Floresville, TX 78114

received
6-16-04