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January 25, 2002

The Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture 14<sup>th</sup> St. & Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary,

Re: docket No. AO-14-A69, et al. DA-00-03

National Farmers Organization supports the United States Department of Agriculture's Recommended Decision of October, 19 2001 found at 66Fed. Reg. 54064.

There is no doubt that the Recommended Decision will increase Class III milk prices higher than the current pricing formula. However this is not an enhancement of producer prices, but a realization that for two years, the Class III formula has short changed producers their full protein value. The current formula is a windfall to processors that must end. Even with the Recommended Decision the prices will not reach the levels of the BFP pricing formula of past legislation. The FAIR Act Reforms reduced Class III prices by 45¢ per cwt. Now is the time to rectify this injustice placed on dairy producers.

For the reasons mentioned above, National Farmers Organization urges the Secretary to adopt the changes she recommended on October 19, 2001 and to do so as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Leonard Vandenburg

National Dairy Department Director

National Farmers Organization

