



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

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Bongards' Creameries 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.

Bongards' Creameries is a Minnesota Dairy Cooperative created in 1908 that manufactures the milk from 280 members into natural and processed cheese. We have 2 plants in Minnesota, 1 in Tennessee and market cheese and whey products domestically and internationally. Bongards has member/owners in Minnesota and North Dakota and employs 600 people.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Beringer".

Tom Beringer

Milk Procurement and Field Service Manager

cc: Dana Coale
Erin Taylor