



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0225

October 31, 2016

Charles M. English, Jr.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
1919 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006-3401

Dear Mr. English:

On September 29, 2015, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) and its members submitted a formal request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a hearing to amend the ten existing Federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs). The proposal would provide a credit to organic fluid milk handlers against their monthly FMMO pool obligations, dependent upon the price paid to dairy farmers for organic milk. On May 10, 2016, USDA received your supplemental submission in support of the initial formal hearing request.

USDA is continuing to review the market concerns raised and the information provided in your proposal, along with the supplemental information from your letter dated May 10, 2016.

I am aware that you are currently working with our staff to provide additional clarification for two items remaining from your data request of June 30, 2016. Once clarification is provided, we will work diligently to fulfill your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elanor Starmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elanor Starmer
Administrator