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June 1, 2023

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

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Milk Producers Council, we are again writing in support of the comprehensive proposal for modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system submitted to you on May 1, 2023 by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). Specifically, we believe Class I differentials are due for a significant enhancement, and those changes need to be considered at the same time as other changes to manufacturing allowances, which will reduce producer income, including from Class I, will be considered.

While we understand that what is being proposed will result in a longer and more complex hearing and decision-making process, maintaining a viable Federal Milk Marketing Order program is vital to American dairy farmers. The whole premise of the FMMOs is based on incentivizing producers to serve the Class I market. And while demand for manufactured milk products has grown, this does not diminish the public interest in maintaining an adequate fluid milk supply for all parts of the nation. If Class I differentials are not addressed in the overall context of looking at the other parts of the FMMO system, we risk doing great harm to the long-term viability of the program.

Therefore, we urge you to include the full comprehensive proposal of NMPF in any national FMMO hearing you call.

Sincerely,

Cornell Kasbergen
Chairman

C: Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator, USDA, AMS
Erin Taylor, Director, Order Formulation and Enforcement Division, USDA, AMS