

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

May 8, 2023

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Southeast Milk, Inc. 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.

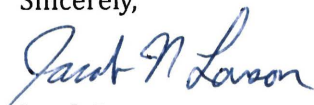
Southeast Milk, Inc. is a full-service dairy cooperative marketing over 1.5 billion pounds of milk annually while operating in seven states in the Southeastern U.S. Our cooperative today - born out of a merger of predecessor cooperatives Florida Dairy Farmers Association and Tampa Independent Farmers Association in 1998 - represents over 130 members, ranging from sixty cow organic operations to large scale conventional farms, respectively.

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 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,



Jacob Larson  
President, Southeast Milk, Inc.

cc: Dana Coale  
Erin Taylor