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**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 4:06 PM

**To:** AMS - Office Of The AMS Administrator <[amsadministratoroffice@usda.gov](mailto:amsadministratoroffice@usda.gov)>

**Subject:** [External Email]Support MIG Proposals

[External Email]

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Bruce Summers

Administrator

Agricultural Marketing Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

I am an independent Class I Processor, and I am in support of the Milk Innovation Groups (MIG) proposals. We struggle to make ends meet every day due to the loss of Class I sales over our tenor of 88 years in the Dairy Industry. The only way we can keep 130 people working and 30 family farms in Pennsylvania alive is to support the proposed changes by MIG to FMMO.

I am writing in support of the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) proposals submitted by the Milk Innovation Group (MIG) to USDA on June 14, 2023, and updated on June 20 with technical revisions.

We are processors of Class I fluid milk from all over the country. We are concerned about proposals that seek to increase Class I prices without taking into consideration the historical decline of fluid milk sales in our country. USDA data show that over the last 25 years, fluid milk volume has dropped about 20% while per capita consumption is down 30%. Today, fluid milk competes in the modern beverage marketplace and any federal regulatory decisions should reflect that reality.

We oppose regulatory changes and price increases that put fluid milk at a competitive disadvantage, disincentivize investment, and ultimately harm dairy farmers and consumers. We also reject the idea that at any reduction in Class III/IV prices related to an update to the make allowances must be made revenue neutral through an increase in Class I prices. Milk price increases will ultimately hurt consumers, result in further consumption declines, and weaken an industry that is already struggling with fluid processing plant closures.

The MIG proposals represent an important and essential approach toward Class I. We need change to ensure a successful update of the nation's federal milk order system. These proposals seek to remove barriers to Class I innovation and reward dairy farmers who ship milk to fluid milk plants.

We urge you to move forward with a Federal Milk Marketing Order hearing that includes the six MIG proposals. Please protect and help dairy processors and the farmers who supply fluid milk. We want to ensure the growth and viability in the fluid milk category. A brighter future for the Class I industry and our rural communities relies upon it.

**William D, Schneider**

**PRESIDENT**

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