

April 24, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
Russell 328-A  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Ranking Member  
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee  
Russell 328-A  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow and Senator Roberts:

We are writing to urge your support for the dairy provisions of the just-released Committee Print of the 2012 Farm Bill from the Senate Ag Committee. These provisions will eliminate the outmoded and ineffective dairy policies of the past and will provide America's hard-working dairy farm families with a more viable safety net and a renewed sense of a more secure future.

This package of dairy reforms reflects a consensus within the U.S. dairy producer community never witnessed before. Although past attempts to revise dairy programs have frequently broken down along regional or farm size differences, this legislation is supported by dairy producers of all sizes and in all regions of the country. It is imperative to seize the moment and move this much-needed legislation forward.

Between the years of 2007 and 2009, America's dairy producers collectively lost \$20 billion in hard-earned equity and were ill-served by the dairy programs that were, and still are, in effect. It will not be possible for these farm families to sustain a similar loss in the future -- with implications for the nation's ability to maintain a ready supply of wholesome, nutritious and affordable milk and dairy products.

America's dairy producers have come together as never before and are solidly behind passage of this legislative package. We encourage you to join them by adding your support to this unified effort.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Milk Producers Federation

Cc: Members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee