

## **News Release**

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"Connecting Cows, Cooperatives, Capitol Hill, and Consumers"

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Friday, February 9, 2018 Christopher Galen (703) 243-6111 ext. 356 CGalen@nmpf.org

## NMPF Statement on Congressional Passage of Dairy Policy Changes in Budget Package From Jim Mulhern, President and CEO, NMPF

ARLINGTON, VA – "The votes early Friday in both the House and Senate to pass a budget bill containing major improvements to the dairy safety net are an important victory for America's dairy farmers. The enhancements to the Margin Protection Program (MPP), coupled with the expansion of additional risk management options, are coming at a crucial time for our producers. Farmers need insurance options that are both effective and affordable, and the disaster package helps deliver on that promise.

"We again thank Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) for spearheading these reforms to the MPP, as well as Sens. Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) for their support. We also very much appreciate the efforts of Reps. Mike Conaway (R-TX) and Collin Peterson (D-MN) for crafting important language to remove the existing cap on livestock insurance products, including the Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy program.

"We have more work ahead in the next Farm Bill, but the safety net and risk management opportunities for dairy farmers are greatly enhanced now, thanks to the passage of these changes."

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The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. For more on NMPF's activities, visit our website at <u>www.nmpf.org</u>.