

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. dairy industry and your work to implement the improved safety net measures recently passed by Congress. We believe that this significant investment in the dairy industry over the next decade will help lessen the financial burden that dairy producers are facing due to continued downward pressure on farm milk prices. While we are aware that the Farm Service Agency sent initial guidance to state and county offices regarding Margin Protection Program (MPP) re-enrollment on March 23, 2018, we urge you to act swiftly to finalize the new provisions for MPP and other dairy risk management options producers may have.

Given the low all-milk prices for the first quarter of 2018, which are likely to continue for several months, retroactive coverage will be critical to many struggling dairy farms. Moreover, given the more affordable first tier premium rates, we urge you to ensure that all dairy farmers, regardless of size, have the ability to secure coverage on their first five million pounds of production history without being required to cover additional milk beyond that.

We are encouraged by these changes to dairy policy and look forward to further dairy reforms in the upcoming Farm Bill. Looking ahead, we encourage the USDA to act swiftly to set a date for the MPP re-enrollment period and to publish clear guidance for farmers about other dairy risk management tools. We thank you for your consideration of our request and for your continued support for dairy producers across our country.

Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
Member of Congress




SEAN P. DUFFY
Member of Congress




PETER WELCH
Member of Congress


CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress



LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress


GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress


ANN McLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

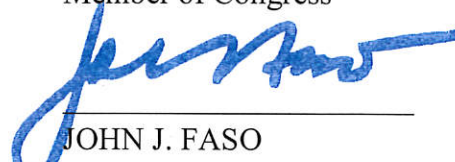

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MARK POCAN
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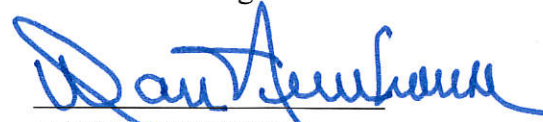

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